■ ENTERTAINMENT
PDI man in Hollywood parties with Liza Minelli at Toronto film fest

■ NEWS/A2
GMA still wants implementation of entire VAT law

■ TALK/A12
How Filipino consumer is spending in these critical times

■ LIFESTYLE
Bibeth Orteza: Laughter is bigger than the Big C

The last movie, last book, then quiet wake for Haydee

By Mariano A. Santos
Contributor

CHICAGO, IL—WHO WOULD THINK THIS was a wake for a highly respected and much loved former Philippine official?

The wake for Haydee Yorac, former chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Gov-

THE LATCH

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, PEARLS & VIEWS

Hagedorn says what GMA won't admit about jueteng

By Norman Bordadora

Sunday, September 18, 2005 ● 24 pages / vol. 29 / no. 261

US envoy warned of coup

LIVING IN A FISHBOWL
Creatures of the sea flourish mightily in the pristine waters of idyllic Boracay. Which is why the island has become a magnet for thousands of tourists. Which in turn has raised a problem in paradise—mountains of garbage and what to do with it. But this is just one of the problems confronting an increasingly favorite playground. ●P1

Two Filipinas find home in land of endless war

By Rukmi G. Bakshani

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—SHE WORKS 5,000 km away from home in a compound that looks like a fortress. Wherever she goes, she keeps a 2-way radio with her because her office wants to be sure she is safe always.

Flower Eve Veronica Linores Quevedo is Medical Managing Editor, and when she is in a lucrative party in Kabul, she counts the song "Journey" about a traveller who roams the earth,

SPECIAL REPORT

fitting from one city to the.

She cried the day she heard Fernando Poe Jr. had died.

A worker of two, Veronica works as a human resource administrative officer in the heavily-fortified compound of the Joint Election Management Board, a poll watchdog run by United Nations and Afghan officials in supervise Afghanistan's first parliamentary elections after 25 years of brutal wars.

THE PHILIPPINES ●A2

Mussomeli report may be one of FBI stolen files

By Norman Bordadora

THE UNITED STATES EMbassy said in a report last April that President Macapagal-Arroyo's public support had faded and that it had been told elements in the Armed Forces were planning to move and force her into resigning, according to a document obtained by the Inquirer yesterday.

The embassy said that "impression" information it had received also suggested that 30th Scouts might try to use her handcuffs supporters outside the military who could be armed, to thwart any coup attempts against her.

These were some of the points mentioned in the April 11, 2005, intelligence assessment prepared by then US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli and sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, only weeks before the "hello-Garci" tape scandal and a Senate inquiry into alleged "jueteng" payoffs plunged the Arroyo administration into its worst political crisis.

The paper said that deposed President Joseph Estrada seemed to have benefited "substantially" from 8th Arroyo's waning popularity.

US Embassy press attaché Heather Lauenbarger said no comment when the Inquirer contacted the embassy.

Mussomeli is now Ch-D5 ambassador to Cambodia. He left Manila last month. Diplo believe he left the country, he told reporters that while there was always disgruntlement in the military, "I don't believe there's any risk now of any military coup. Put it at close to zero."

The Mussomeli paper referred to what it said were rampant rumors at the time that a coup attempt could occur "as early as May 2005." Titled "Philippines: Public Unease Growing," Mussomeli's intelligence assessment could be one of the reports I (M) classified FBI files allegedly downloaded by the PNP's Filipino-Asian

●A6

TRACING THE TRAIL OF THE TAPE

The problem is Isafp chiefs report directly to GMA

By Pr Zamora

(Updated)

AWARD OF THE EQUIPMENT GIVEN BY the United States to the latter part of 2003, record and active officers of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) push-pushed the flat-out denial of Brig. Gen. Mario Quevedo, Isafp chief, that his group had the technical knowhow and the equipment to wiretap.

In fact, the Isafp would appear to have been upgrading its wiretapping equipments, from the analog system acquired in the '90s, to the digital interception acquired some time in late 2003.

An Inquirer TEAM Report

Shortly after the appointment of Quevedo's predecessor, Brig. Gen. Tirso Danga, the latter conducted a briefing for a group of senior Isafp officials. One of them recalled Danga crowing about "new equipment from the United States that could be used to monitor suspected terrorists."

The problem with Isafp, said an intelligence source, was the practice of Isafp chiefs and other ranking officials reporting directly or getting orders directly from the commander-in-chief or key persons close to the President. The source noted that this "practice" was

THE PHILIPPINES ●A2

History of 'Manilamen' of New Orleans lost to 'Katrina'

By Frank Cimas
PDI Sr Overseas Assistant Editor

"DANCE THE SHRIMP" means Filipinos in the old Manila Village in New Orleans were running the boats of sun-dried shrimp. Beginning in 1762, Filipinos, mostly sailors who had abandoned the galleon trade, had settled in Louisiana. This photo and the one at right are part of the collection of historian Marina Espina.

BAGUIO CITY—WHEN HURRICANE KATrina battered New Orleans early this month, the floods it spawned may very well have also destroyed valuable documents chronicling the exploits of Filipinos who had settled in what is now the United States more than two centuries ago.

At e-mail from the Filipino-American National Historical Society (FANHS) based in Seattle, Washington, said the home of historian Marina Estrella Espina and her husband, Cipriano, in New Orleans had been submerged in water.

"They may have lost everything—and we as Filipino-Americans will share in their loss because 40 years of tedious research on the 'Manilamen' was in their home. Her research was the foundation of Filipino-American history," FANHS said.

FANHS, founded by Filipino historian

●A6

THEY NEVER LEFT HOME. Manila Village built by the "Filipino Lagoon" complete with a cantaret store and houses built on stilts was destroyed by Hurricane Betsy in 1965. The first Filipino village, St. Malo, was also destroyed by a hurricane in 1915.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2010

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

GMA for full VAT package

By Christine D. Avendaño and Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERDAY REITERATED her stand that the Expanded Value-Added Tax Law be implemented fully amid proposals from legislators to duties the 10-percent VAT on oil and electricity.

"The new revenue [law] should be implemented in its entirety if we are able to achieve our economic effects and other redistributive goals to certain sectors," Presidential decision said in a statement issued by Malacañang.

Ms. Arroyo said the full implementation of the law would enable the government to finance vital infrastructure projects, overcome growth and to provide social services such as scholarship and education.

Malacañang issued the statement to clarify a report that the President was amenable to the deferment of the VAT on fuel and electricity provided this was initiated by Congress.

Mr. Arroyo's key allies in Congress, Albay Rep. Joey Salceda and Iloilo Rep. Boboy Syjuco, filed separate resolutions in the House and Senate respectively seeking a delay implementation of the tax measure on fuel and electricity.

In his statement, Mr. Arroyo said the executive branch "realizes that it is the prerogative of Congress to double and then eliminate, and are well implement the Law accordingly."

But she cautioned Congress that if it should decide to exempt fuel and electric power from VAT, "then we hope they will seriously consider the significant implications for our country in the international fiscal market and limit the scope of these exemptions."

Mr. Arroyo assured the public the government had adopted strong measures to cushion the impact of the VAT on the people, the poor particularly.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero yesterday said the opposition would still question the law's constitutionality before the Supreme Court despite the three-day's supposed willingness to delay the VAT imposition on products and electricity.

Escudero said they had asked the high court to set aside its ruling of Sept. 1 upholding the VAT law's constitutionality.

"It's good that she herself has finally admitted that the VAT is ill-timed that deferred is not enough. We will push through our motion to declare the entire provision for the nullification of the law and the VAT imposition," Escudero said.

The President on Friday told Australian businessmen in New York that she was considering proposals to delay the VAT implementation on oil and electricity.

Salceda and lawmakers would take up the matter when Congress resumes session tomorrow.

However, Salceda said the deferral of the VAT on power and oil could take effect only after the Supreme Court lifted its temporary restraining order against the law's implementation.

"I think the trigger will be the lifting of the TRO. We cannot defer something that has not been implemented," Salceda said.

But opposition Rep. Eugenio "Edu" Villaroel said he expected the TRO to remain until the high court resolve these issues by mid-September.

Villaroel said they would file high court to declare the VAT law unconstitutional once it comes up on session that did not originate from the House as required by law.

All tax bills should originate from the House but this law considers provisions on excise taxes, percentage taxes and income taxes that came from the Senate," Villaroel said.

He said that the "no pass through" provision that banned power such if companies from passing taxes amount as to consumers was also debated in the bicameral conference committee although both the House and Senate versions of the law had it.

Villaroel said they would also question the law's provision giving the President standby authority to increase the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent, saying this was a usurpation of legislative authority. With Gaylin T. Mallari Jr., INQ Southern Luzon Bureau and Reuters

Floods, slides leave 7 dead

FLOODS, LANDSLIDES AND A BOAT accident following days of heavy rains have left at least seven people dead, officials said yesterday.

The Office of Civil Defense said the flooding affected more than 20,000 people, including 2,242 who had to flee to safer areas. Some farm communities in seven Luzon provinces and Metro Manila in the height of the rains.

The civil defense office said 43 villages in Batangas and Bicol region were still under water on Saturday.

Officials of Muntinlupa City said the body of a 24-year-old man—who had been swept away on Friday by a swollen creek, along with his two minor agent. 1 and 2—was recovered under a bridge near the Alabang-Zapote Road.

The youngest girl's body was later found in a lake that the river empties into. Coast Guard divers were searching for the other child.

Amphibious vehicles rescued two four-year-olds, including a sister of the two missing children.

Officials blamed garbage-clogged drainage canals for the quick rise and slow retreat of floodwaters in Metro Manila.

Civil defense spokesperson Anthony Golez said a 13-year-old boy in Tayabas City and a 19-year-old woman were buried by a landslide early Saturday in Bacnotan, Ilocos province.

Wenefe Tolentino, OCD regional director, identified the victims as Clifford Dominguez and his sister Arlyn Jones.

The children were buried in mud when a river overflowed and swept the wreckage of their house along a road in Bacnotan. Two others, Ma. Lourdes Tan and Tomasa Sy, were swept away by floodwaters in Tayabas City.

Search workers were still searching for Ritchie Bacnotan, who was buried with the children, Tomasa said.

Golez said the bodies of two teenaged girls, among other school students brought home in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, were retrieved from the Sebu River estuary on the Sarangani Bay. He said. AP, AFP, Pinamu Cabrera, INQ S. Luzon Bureau

Gov't, MILF resolve ancestral domain issue

By Christine D. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday said peace was finally within reach in Mindanao as she welcomed the breakthrough achieved in the peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The two panels just concluded the 9th exploratory talks held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Sept. 15-16 where they were able to resolve the unresolved domain question, the most contentious issue in the negotiations.

In a statement, the President expressed the hope the two sides would be able to sign an accord on ancestral domain before the end of the year, and thus pave the way for the opening of formal peace talks and, eventually, a peace agreement soon after.

"I am glad at the strong breakthrough in the GRP-MILF peace talks in Kuala Lumpur," Ms. Arroyo said. She is expected back in Manila today after attending the World Summit and the United Nations Seventy-Second meeting in New York.

In a joint statement, the government and MILF said the latest round of talks ended Friday "with the parties committed to overlooking the most difficult hurdle in the ancestral domain agenda."

Chief government negotiator Marvic Leonen and MILF head negotiator Mohagher Iqbal signed the joint statement.

"With this breakthrough, the peace processes commit to complete the annex. It is the main agenda before the end of the year," the statement said.

It did not say, however, how the two rebel factions resolved issues of the territory covering ancestral domain. It also did not say when the next round of talks would be held.

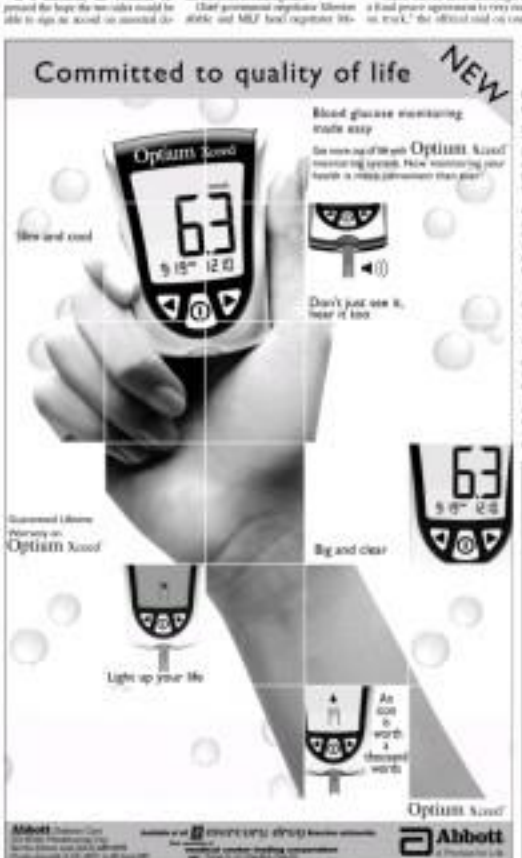
In Kuala Lumpur, a Malaysian official confirmed the resolution of key differences over territorial rights and sovereignty of resources.

"There will be more meetings, but it is final peace agreement is very much on track," the official said on condition of anonymity.

Malaysia has been mediating peace talks between Manila and the MILF which has been fighting for more than two decades to set up an Islamic state in Mindanao.

The panels said the MILF agreed to sacrifice in 2001 and opened peace talks but one of the stumbling blocks was the rebels' demand for recognition of their "ancestral domain," or areas once inhabited by Muslims in Mindanao.

The MILF previously said recognizing Muslims' "ancestral domain" might lead to their claiming property rights and areas under the jurisdiction of local governments. WITH AFP REPORTS



'Imelda got gems as gifts'

By Desiree Caluza and Vincent Cabreza, PDI M. Lance Garcia, and Alexis Pupa

MACRO CITY—FORMER BEAUTY QUEEN Gloria Macapagal Arroyo testified recently for Imelda Marcos in drop the Presidential Commission on Good Government from auctioning off the estimated $16-million jewelry collection seized from the Marcos first lady.

The actress, who carried favor on Friday to the case of the judges in the Metro Tourism Regional Trial Court, claimed the late Emperor King Ramon II of Morocco giving Marcos gifts of jewelry in the early 1980s, supposedly as proof that Imelda did not acquire the collection through graft or other illegal means.

"I saw [the royal] hand put the ring on to Mrs. Marcos. She opened it and showed it to us. It contained bracelets, earrings, rings and a necklace. There were loose materials and the centerpiece [of the setting held] a diamond," Marquis said at Philippine.

She said it was not right for the government to take the jewelry from Marcos who, she told reporters, "worked hard to promote this country."

The PCGG, the agency tasked with recovering the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, last Monday said it would announced last month that it intended to auction off the entire jewelry collection seized from Imelda valued at $6 million.

On Thursday Marcos asked Manila court to issue an injunction against the PCGG auction, claiming the jewelry belonged to her, with some pieces coming from relatives.

Three international auction houses are bidding for the right to sell the Marcos collection—Sotheby's, Christie's and Bonhams. The Oklahoma Bonhams has proposed an international road show of the collection before the auction to attract interest by the public.

In a letter sent to the PCGG, a copy of which was shown to the bonhams, Bonhams intends to take the collection to such cities as Los Angeles, London, Paris, Boston, Hong Kong and Dubai. This is to be preceded by an advertising campaign in the most prestigious international publications.

Marquis, who was the fifth International to fly in 1974, said Imelda had received gifts from various international leaders during the years that she toured the world with entertainers, models and businessmen.

She said Imelda was not as generous, however, in giving out to her Iran-held Philippine made gifts.

Marquis said she did not intend to disparage the people who counted Marcos with her friendship.

"I am not jubilating... I am not a Marcos loyalist. I am only giving the truth which is the fact," Marquis said.

OF THERAPIES AND TREATMENT

The "Father of Therapeutic Community Modality" is joined "Hon. William O'Brien Ash [crowned on the Ninoy Aquino International airport by Ambassador Miguel Perez-Rubio [center] and Health Undersecretary Lulu del Mundo. O'Brien will discuss drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation at the forum sponsored by the Philippine Federation of Therapeutic Communities at Hotel InterContinental in Makati City on Monday.

December test run eyed for Naia 3

By Nikko Dizon

THE NAIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Authority (Naia) said Friday it was eyeing some time in December for a test run of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 in December before making the commercial facility operational by January 2006.

As a precautionary measure, Naia General Manager Alfonso Cusi said the airport authority would hold a "soft opening" with a simulation of terminal operations and the activation of all its systems such as baggage conveyors, X-ray machines, passenger bridges, and cameras, immigration and quarantine inspections.

Cusi also said the Naia would be giving its incumbent airlines their lease contracts for Naia 3 by the end of September.

Cusi told reporters the recent buyout by Manila Hotel Corp. of German airport operator Fraport AG's shares in Piatu 3 would not be a factor in the scheduled test run.

He said the ongoing arbitration case between the government and Fraport AG and the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) over issues separate from the operation of the airport terminal.

"Remember we were supposed to open last June," Piatco that was delayed, so, didn't stop anything. We quietly continued to work (on preparations) to open Naia 3," he said.

Cusi appealed for "everybody's cooperation" to get the terminal open by January.

"What we're hoping for is for everybody's cooperation. Everybody is desirous of having Terminal 3 opened," he said.

But in a separate interview, the Naia 3 project manager appeared to be more cautious about the test run.

"Once the legal issues are settled, then we can activate the system and try to do a simulation," Florencio Mendiola Jr. said, without elaborating.

Gov't phone bill surges to P3.7B

THE COMMUNICATION BILL OF THE GOVernment surged to P3.724 billion in 2004 due mainly to the increased use of mobile phones by various government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations and local government units.

Sen. Ralph Recto yesterday said this was 34 percent or P447 million higher than the P3.277 billion communication bill incurred in 2003.

Communication expenses include postage, landline, mobile phone, Internet, cable and telegraph use.

Last year, national agencies shelled out some P1.897 billion in communication expenses, up from P1.666 billion in 2003; GOCCs, P1.116 billion from P967 million, and LGUs, P710 million from P645 million.

Recto, chair of the Senate committee on ways and means, attributed the rise to communication expenses to the increase in mobile phone expenses of various government agencies.

The mobile phone bill of the national government agencies shot up from P168 million in 2003 to P251 million in 2004; while GOCCs more than doubled their expense from P124 million in 2003 to P263 million in 2004.

The Commission on Audit's report, which Recto used as a basis for his findings, however, did not contain a breakdown of the communication expenses of GOCCs.

"But it is safe to assume that more telecanvey friends in the GOCC sector increased their mobile phone use," Recto said in a statement.

While telephone bills were steadily rising, expenses for postage declined, with the national government shelling out P1.76 million in 2004, down from P2.99 million the previous year, and the GOCCs disbursing P23 million last year, down from P25 million in 2003, for example, Recto said.

He also noted that a growing number of government offices were "hiring the latest technologies" to transmit communications.

The LGUs' Internet subscriptions count tripled to P7.9 million in 2004 from the previous year, while the national government agencies' subscription expenses rose by 23 percent to P1.58 million in 2004. El Burgosnia

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History of 'Manilamen' ...

From page A1

Fred Cordova, said the Filipinos were sent ashore by the forces of their daughter, Ilona, in Lafayette, some 160 km east of New Orleans and 64 km past Baton Rouge, the Louisiana state capital.

"Both Espinas are antiquated. However, their home, near the University of New Orleans, by Lake Pontchartrain, is under water. Marina Espina's valuable research is thought to be totally lost," the message said.

According to Marina Espina's research, the first Filipinos to arrive in the United States settled in the marshes around New Orleans where they became known as "Manilamen" or "Filipino Cajuns." They were cowmen who had jumped ship from Spanish galleons as early as 1763 and settled along the bay areas of southern Louisiana.

There Filipino settlers built their homes on stilts, drove cattle-boats and worked as shrimpers, fishermen and trappers and left their mark in the local culture. They taught the Americans how to drink rubo (personal wine) and dance "the shrimp," a way of stomping on sun-dried shrimp (tabe) to remove their heads.

A WELL-KNOWN descendant of the "Manilamen," Bernard Diocares Ingles as the "Filipino Cajun" waltzes to a decision on Sugar Ray Robinson for the world welterweight title in 1946.

CLARA GINA MAGSINO

'Rubo and tabe'

In addition to tabe and bibe, the Manilamen, who used vinegar and garlic to make fish last for days, also introduced palusbo to the local cuisine. The dish continued to be served in New Orleans restaurants right up to the time fourteen Espinas struck.

One of the latest known descendants of the Manilamen was Isaac Bernard Dioscaro who, as the "Filipino Cajun," became a top contender for the world welterweight title but failed to wrest the crown when he lost by knockout in a match with Sugar Ray Robinson in a 1946 bout in Chicago.

The Manilamen's first village, known as St. Malo, was destroyed by a hurricane in 1915. "Manila Village," with its sari-sari and shrimp stores, was destroyed by Hurricane Betsy in 1965.

Many of the descendants of the Manilamen have drowned by the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

Espina, who came from Cebu, arrived in the United States in 1965 and became a librarian at the University of New Orleans. It was there she met and married the late Peter Espina, an engineer in the United States during with evidence of how they founded St. Malo, located in the marshes of Lake Borgne to St. Bernard Parish County, 64 km from New Orleans.

Apart from St. Malo and Manila Village, other early Filipino settlements were Alcibiades Canal, Caillo Downs, Lost Bajou, Bayou Chodas and Bayou Barata. The villages were largely hidden away and the Manilamen initially lived in seclusion.

'Tagalas fears PI.'

Writing in the March 31, 1883, issue of Harper's Weekly, Lafcadio Hearn, a famous traveler at the time, observed of the "Manilamen," whom he also called "Tagalas from the Philippine Islands":

"The place of their home (pertaining to a tribe) village is not precisely mentioned (on maps, and the world in general ignored until a few days ago the bare fact of their antediluvian existence. Even the (ill mad) servant has never heard (a wet) clothes, and once in the great city of New Orleans, less than 100 miles (160 km) distant, the people were for never informed about the (subsistence) existence concerning the sausage affairs of this Manila village."

In her book "Filipinos in Louisiana," Espina notes that Filipinos started arriving in Louisiana about 1763. It boat was wiped badly unloading cargo at New Orleans when a group of Filipino sailors (had) mutiny in current swamp. The Spaniards did not pursue the Filipinos for fear of losing esteem by allegiance.

For years after that, Filipinos continued on galleons plying the Manila-Acapulco trade route would jump ship upon reaching Mexico and travel up the Gulf of Mexico to the growing Filipino communities by company.

Numerous oral and historical accounts on the Manilamen show they fought alongside the colonials in the American Revolution and participated in the American Civil War.

Espina collected photos of Manila Village on the marshy fiery in Louisiana and did research on eight generations of Ossis Filipinos in New Orleans.

Visual proof

"Marina has been one of the most active and productive members of INHS. She was the second national president, was featured in our video 'Filipino-American: Discovering Their Past for the Future,' and had spoken at most of our conferences including the 1998 mini-conference in Manila which commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Spanish-American war and its subsequent impact on Filipinos," wrote Dorothy Cordova, INHS archivist's web.

Recalling Espinas first presentation to INHS in the late 1970s, Dorothy Cordova said: "She dishes the Internet to show us the research she shared blew us away. There was visual proof that Filipinos existed and settled several villages where they worked as shrimpers, fishermen and trappers. At first, the villages were all male enclaves. Eventually, the men married local women of other races and created families which to this day have strong ties to those 'hidden villages.'"

Many of the Manilamen's descendants now bear Caucasian features, Cordova noted.

With Cyril L. Bonoan Jr., PDI Research

US envoy warned of coup

From page A1

can intelligence analyst Leandro Aragoncillo and sent to several personalities in the country.

The FBI has arrested Aragoncillo and former Philippine National Police Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, to whom Aragoncillo had supposedly passed on the files, on espionage charges. Aquino's lawyer said his client had not breached any US law.

"The broad support that Aragoncillo-Aragoncillo enjoyed following his resignation last year has faded and public frustration with the economy, corruption and the stalled efforts at reform have taken their toll on her standing," the paper said.

The paper was also prepared in the wake of a nationwide transport strike that even had the US diplomat interesting in the report that its effects "might persuade the military to move..."

"With the impending unification of the opposition groups, Embassy Manila suggests that Estrada seems to have benefited substantially from his declining ratings," read the report prepared by the top American diplomat in the country at the time.

The report dated 12:18 US Embassy sources as saying that a limited statement of Ms Arroyo had been sent to visit Estrada to detention at his house, Road, reason to ask the deposed President "to honor his publishing."

Coup has 'highest rating'

"Despite being incarcerated he allegedly has yeasts, Estrada still maintains the highest popularity ratings in the country," the report said. "His opposite legitimacy with popular support and his intention to revive the pro-Estrada forces has already produced destabilization unrest."

Reports from the US Defense Attaché's Office suggest that coup plan(s) are perhaps not an undefined military operation' involving elements. It is all but certain that it intended to intimidate Aragoncillo Arroyo into resigning," the report said.

The paper, however, reported that US agents in the Philippines had "little information" on the composition and plans of the "said but ordinary coup plotters."

"Sources are rampant but vague, though the latest have officers moving against Macapagal-Arroyo soon (possible as early as May 2005)," the report said.

It mentioned Ms Arroyo as having supporters ...who could likewise be armed—whom she could count on aside from an "unreliable military."

"Information on Macapagal-Arroyo's hardline supporters, including how well armed or organized (they) are, also is impressive. Some reporting suggests, however, that Macapagal-Arroyo depend on these groups rather than his (her) unreliable military to defend her government," the report said.

Two takeover scenarios

It also mentioned two scenarios in ordering a military takeover or having "permanent patient (sic)."

The first one involves the opposition guarding Ms Arroyo into declaring a state of emergency, "prompting the military ...unwilling to oppose—chorus of unpopular(ity) arrest...either to refuse or to be ordered the President."

The second scenario is "ground strike" by those against her.

"Most recently, (C Macapagal Arroyo responds to the strike by calling her own supporters into the streets to counter the opposition's demonstrations, the military could act against her in the name of restoring order," the report said.

The Blaisdell report also widely quoted from the findings of the Social Weather Stations survey at the time.

"Political infighting, social disorder and, above all, widespread corruption have left the Filipinos increasingly anxious about the direction their country is taking, according to the latest SWS survey," the report's first sentence read.

The report also mentioned that Ms Arroyo was not the only one to suffer a dip in popularity but also the legislature, judiciary, military and the police.

The paper also included a comment on Filipinos resenting marrying abroad and citing at a time when the "Mail-Order Bride" issue—the alleged wounded correspondence between Ms Arroyo and then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on poll results manipulation—had yet to be exposed.

Controversial envoy

"At the aftermath of recent elections, polling by SWS indicates that only 41 percent of the Filipino population is satisfied with democracy, leading many commentators to conclude—that the public is ready to endorse sweeping—and lastly undesirable—electoral reforms," read Blaisdell's report.

Blaisdell's cable became controversial during his stint as the US Embassy charge d'affaires when he was told the media that Washington was facing a scenario similar to Afghanistan where it was controlled by warlords.

Michael Ray violated no US law, says lawyer

By Michael Lim Ubac

NEW YORK—THE LIMITED STATES attorney General has no case against ex-Bureau Supt. Michael Ray Aquino—since he has not violated any US laws, American lawyer Mark A. Berman said Friday.

Berman said the business that his client was innocent of espionage charges slapped against him by the Philippine bureau of investigation.

"The Attorney General has a result case against my client," said Berman, a court-appointed counsel for Aquino and an attorney in the Philippines, Jed Ibes, Bobby Caffiga and Abraham law offices.

"He's not guilty and he will plead not guilty to the two counts of espionage charges," the lawyer added.

He was referring to the two charges of aiding as an agent of a foreign official without notification of the Attorney General, and knowingly and willfully giving classified information by a government employee as an agent or representative of a foreign country.

The last movie, last book...

From page A1

entrance, was held on Sept. 14 at the Santo Cemetery, Pasay.

Yuzon, 64, had died of kidney failure and other complications of treatment on Sept. 12 at St. Francis Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

Her remains were supposed to be cremated before being flown back to Manila but the plans changed.

On Friday, Mangos Yuzon and Stella Amor, with her husband, accompanied the remains of their eldest sister Hardee on her final journey home, where funeral arrangements for the latest have officers moving against Macapagal-Arroyo soon (possible as early as May 2005)," the report said.

It mentioned Ms Arroyo as having supporters ...who could likewise be armed—whom she could count on aside from an "unreliable military."

"Information on Macapagal-Arroyo's hardline supporters, including how well armed or organized (they) are, also is impressive. Some reporting suggests, however, that Macapagal-Arroyo depend on these groups rather than his (her) unreliable military to defend her government," the report said.

Two takeover scenarios

It also mentioned two scenarios in ordering a military takeover or having "permanent patient (sic)."

The first one involves the opposition guarding Ms Arroyo into declaring a state of emergency, "prompting the military ...unwilling to oppose—chorus of unpopular(ity) arrest...either to refuse or to be ordered the President."

The second scenario is "ground strike" by those against her.

"Most recently, (C Macapagal Arroyo responds to the strike by calling her own supporters into the streets to counter the opposition's demonstrations, the military could act against her in the name of restoring order," the report said.

The Blaisdell report also widely quoted from the findings of the Social

another sister, Margie, who is also a Chicago area resident, had quit her full-time job as a registered nurse was unemergency helper care for Hardee who had been diagnosed with cervical cancer.

Margie, who is single, said Hardee was the eldest of the Chicago-area siblings who related that her sister would stay with them the whole time and never went out.

"If she went out at all, it was to Barnes & Noble (a bookstore). She loved books. Sometimes she would ask me a movie with me."

The last film they saw was "Mr. and Mrs. Smith."

Dina and Nonie rarely turned on the TV for news of home.

"I think it was because it depressed her. I would see her shaking her head when she watched or heard news about the Philippines," Chan said.

Reading Clinton

"Her favorite TV shows were 'Law & Order' and 'CSI' but she spent most of her time reading. She was reading 'My Life,' the autobiography of Bill Clinton," she added.

Chan talked about Nonie's last days. "We don't hesitate using a fighter," she said, her eyes misting. "She didn't give up easily. Before she started to become weak, I asked her if she wanted a supervisor and she answered with a loud 'Yes.' Her mind was done to the very end."

She also recalled the many text messages Nonie received from friends and officials in Manila. "Pete Aytona (the wife of Sen. Juliet Ati-Ayte) was always asking about her condition. (Sen.) Joey Salgado even wanted to know what her favorite food was," Ms Chan said. I believe they asked other officials to pitch in to help with the medical expenses as we could never bet to St. Francis," Chan said.

Rose succumbed at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, Illinois, the day immediately before the planned stop for Monday

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THE MBA TOUR

Corrections

IN SEPTEMBER'S issue, a front-page story—"UN security conference" of GMA 'Taiko' crowd"—inaccurately included Subic Rep. Jerdi Lagos in the list of congressmen who had gone to Brea York City for the former's speech before the United Nations assembly.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a story on page A12—"Religious row to flare"—misstated the name of the priest who will lead a pilgrimage to Batasa. The priest is Fr. Jerry Orbos—not his brother Oscar Orbos.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections, clarifications or retractions to the Reader's Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Amorsolo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-8710/19; e-mail address: readers@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about bad reception or objectivity may be sent to Letters Editor Titet Avelino's e-mail address: tmavelino@inquirer.com.ph or fax Nos. 897-8710/19; news desk's address: the phone number is 897-8000, ext 342.

BOXING: Barrera vs Pa... dec. 12 a.m. (HBO)
BASEBALL: MLB - A's vs Red Sox 7 a.m. (Cinco) and 8 p.m. (ESPN)—Oakland takes on Boston in Game 1.

CHEERDANCE TKT: Precise routine executions keep defending champion UST's victory in the UAAP cheerdance competition yesterday. The UP pep squad placed 2nd while the FEU cheering squad emerged 3rd.

UE, La Salle settle score

JAMES TODD (Junior Inquirer)

THEY'VE PLAYED TWO CLIFFHANGER-TYPE games, both of which ended with a pair of **protests, and a lot more hard feelings.**

And there's going to be a third time.

The La Salle Archers and the University of the East Warriors, linked together by matters who share the same bloodline, will fight for the remaining letter-to-beat advantage in the UNAP basketball tournament as it gets under at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Panamara brothers...Jesse's Archers and Dindo's Warriors—will square off for the third time after the UNAP board ordered a replay of their controversial second-round game.

"It will be a game of enemies, of wanting to prove something," said Prieto.

A La Salle win would keep a three-way tie with UE and Ateneo at 10-4, but the defending champions would gain the No. 2 slot outright due to a superior quotient.

A UE victory would give the Warriors a second best record at 11-3. Thus, the Warriors would be assured with a better-to-beat advantage against the third-seed Eagles in the Final Four, while the league-leading the Bantam U Tamaraws get to face the Archers in the other semifinal pairing.

The tourist two members this season were right and controversial. Aiming on the Warriors' game protest, the league's arbitrary committee ruled La Salle's 88-87 overtime win last Sept. 3 and declared UE the winners La Salle filed an appeal, prompting the UNAP board to order a replay.

In the first round, the Archers also contested their 91-57 setback against the Warriors. La Salle cited alleged non-call on goal tending violations, but the league dismissed the complaint.

Meanwhile, the UST Salingpusod Dance Troupe bagged their fourth straight title in the Manila Metro Rep Cheerdance Competition yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

UST scored 98.88 percent to claim the P150,000 grand prize.

Jasmine B. Payo

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Rookies deliver for SLR

(SCRIPTED) rookie Alex Cabagnot got a passing mark in his debut in a Big Ten uniform, guiding the Fighting Illini to an 83-81 win over Marshall in a PBA pre-season game Friday at the New Mexico College gym.

Two days after formally signing a three-year contract with Wa. Lin-la, the league's No. 2 overall draft pick showed a glimpse of what he can do as he managed to finish with eight points and kept his poise in the face of the rough defense applied on him by the Herdsmen.

He also set up fellow rookie Cesar Catli for a big three-point shot at the corner that put the Fighters ahead for good in the closing seconds, 79-77.

Cadi also had a big breakout game, scoring 16 points

PBA bids to play at Lakers' court

By Jun Mascuro

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL ASsociation is hoping to get the feel of playing in a National Basketball Association atmosphere soon.

Commissioner Noli Eala yesterday said the pro league has been negotiating with a United States-based promoter on the possibility of bringing its games to the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

The home of the NBA LA Lakers, the Staples Center was in the limelight last Sunday when it hosted a boxing card that became memorable when Manny Pacquiao and two other Filipino fighters posted knockout wins.

"We're seriously looking at the possibility of bringing it there," Eala told the Inquirer. "Right now, we're trying to work out a deal with a promoter based in LA."

The pro league wants to schedule a doubleheader at the Staples Center before or during the all-Filipino second conference in March next year, Eala said.

"It is part of the PBA's commitment to bring the games to the fans. It will cater to the Filipino community there," said Eala, who explained that both games would count as regular season games.

The 31st season of Asia's first pro league kicks off on Oct. 2 with an import-laced conference that will last until March 2006.

After a two-week break, the all-Filipino conference begins on the same month.

Once approved, the PBA will call it off the first shot to the nine teams. Along with first Staples Center experience, the host ballclubs will also promote the league and stay in LA/OC at least three days.

Aside from the US trip, the PBA has also scheduled doubleheaders in Taipei during the first conference and games in Guam and Indonesia for the all-Filipino Cup as well.

Eala said a total of 30 local out-of-town games are scheduled for the coming season on top of at least three overseas destinations.

Among the provinces the league would visit are Tuboal in Lanao del Norte, Tamburanga City, Cagayan, Tacloban, Cagayan de Oro, Ormoc, Laoang City and Urdaneta, Pangasinan.

Eight out of town games will be played on each conference, 12 of them to be held in the south.

Opening may lure 250,000

THE PHILIPPINE ATHLETIC ARMS Games Organizing Committee (PhilocG) will be spending close to P50 million for the staging of the opening and closing ceremonies of the coming 23rd Games.

Games will be the size of the opening on Nov. 27 where close to 250,000 people are expected. Sadly, the Philoc doesn't have a Plan B in case of heavy rains like Metro Manila is expected to be the past three days.

BASKETBALL is still in the SEAG cards despite the suspension of the country from the international federation (Fiba).

Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, the Philippine Olympic Committee chief, will be flying to Geneva to appeal with Fiba secret Patrick Baumann, who imposed the suspension on the Philippines following the expulsion of the Basketball Association of the Philippines from the POC.

Manuel Luzdiko

Two Filipinas find home in land of endless war

Front page A1

Seven ceasefires have died in the violent runup to today's elections.

The polls are part of an international effort to rebuild shattered institutions. More than 30,000 foreign troops, mostly American, try to keep the peace in this once-fiercely united country.

"I don't know of any other country that has been almost completely destroyed by war like Afghanistan," Navy Admiral Edmund Giambastiani, the commander, told reporters. "No government, no military, no culture, no leadership, no police, no authority all over the country."

America carries $6,000 a month—roughly P336,000, or more than Presidente Maravilla gives in three days.

The 37-year-old Batangueña works one week away from fellow GI officer Anne Shimizu Diaz, cosupervisor of Charlie, sharing a 40'FOO-a month apartment with her.

"Whatever you are, if your time is up, it is up," Veronica told the historian, when asked why she left a secure job in Pakistan to go to a zone that produced the Taliban heroin.

Can't just go anywhere

Last October, Filipina diplomat Angelita Reyes-Arad was leave-hungry and decided to go to Dubai to see her husband. Her colleagues in the UN (which will run other foreign workers when pointers visited them in downtown Kabul and held their hostage for weeks).

Reyes-Arad left the Philippines in 1995 to settle in Dubai as a secretary. Nine years later, she moved to Islamabad, where she married a Pakistani.

Having lived in Indonesia and in Pakistan, Veronica is at home with the culture. If her husband's overcome, she can easily lose herself in a crowd of bhabhi women.

"I can still have ... But we cannot just go anywhere," she said.

"What's the best the contemporary foreigner

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ibarra

World leaders fall short of summit goals

UNITED NATIONS—A SUMMIT BILLED AS THE largest gathering of world leaders in history achieved far less than UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan had hoped in the fight to overhaul the United Nations and alleviate poverty, terrorism and human rights abuses.

After three days to attack Annan was the only one of 191 member states not to give a speech before the General Assembly, the leaders adopted a 35-page document that commits their governments to achieving UN goals to combat poverty and creates a commission to help more countries from war to peace.

Leaders joined the document as a first step toward sweeping UN reform and helping the world's poor. But just as often, they expressed disappointment at what area left out: any mention of disarmament, UN Security Council reform, and details of a plan to replace the discredited Human Rights Commission with a new human rights council.

Ivanov disputes our profound disappointment that we were not able to agree at this summit on all of the elements required to make it operational," Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin said of the Russian Foreign Council at a news conference Friday.

As is often the case with such events, it was meetings on the sidelines of the summit marking the United Nations' 60th anniversary that produced the most exciting headlines.

There were rare moments between Arab states and Israel, which won praise for its withdrawal from Gaza. Many nations signed a new treaty aimed at preventing nuclear terrorism. Iran's new president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, made his UN debut by saying Iran was willing to offer nuclear technology to other Muslim states, Iran's state-run Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

US President George W. Bush, who says peace ago questioned whether the United Nations was relevant, surprised many on Wednesday by giving the world body his strong backing. He also met privately for declaring that poverty breeds terrorism and despair and challenging world leaders to abolish all trade tariffs and subsidies to promote prosperity and opportunity in struggling nations.

The three-day summit brought presidents, prime ministers and kings from 171 of the 191 UN member states to the United Nations—a record number according to UN officials.

We learned of adopting Annan's sweeping blueprint to enable the world body to deal with the challenges of a new century, diary were guaranteed with a diluted 35-page document. The final document represented the lowest common denominator that all countries could agree on after months of negotiations.

Even then, Venezuela's foreign minister Ali Rodriguez objected to the "adjectives and entitlements in a menu" used to improve the document, saying that one line too many had a bond to clothing it. "This organization can have nothing good awaiting it if it follows such procedures," he said.

But for the vast majority of countries the final document was settlement, because up until the eve of the summit the differences were so wide that there was no certainty there would be an agreement.

"The consensus document represents an important step in a long process of UN reform," US Ambassador John Bolton said. "We remain confident that the reform effort to be decided or not out of reach."

The most significant planks in the final document are the creation of a new Peacebuilding Commission to help countries emerging from conflict and set aspirations by all governments of the collective international responsibility to protect people from genocide, war crimes and ethnic cleansing. AP

Catholic Church to expel US gay seminarians

WASHINGTON—THE US CATHOLIC CHURCH, stung by a sex abuse scandal, is poised to launch a quiet campaign to expel from the seminaries of moderate suspected of homosexual orientation, sparking protests from the gay community whose members have compared the effort to a "witch hunt."

The protests were prompted by the Vatican's decision to begin at the end of this month Catholic officials said "apostolic visitation" of 10 seminaries and church-controlled colleges to make sure their students abide by celibacy rules.

A 96-year-watchdog commission that contacts 1,117 members is expected to canvass 229 seminaries and countless students about their past sexual preferences, according to church officials.

In a statement release through Catholic News Service, US Conference of Catholic Bishops communications secretary Francis Maniscalco said the queries would be justified because the seminary is a place to prepare men for a lifelong commitment to celibacy.

"So anything that affects that commitment, whether it relates to heterosexual behavior or homosexual 'behavior,'" he stated, "I think, is appropriate to ask."

Archbishop Edwin O'Brien, who oversees Catholic institutions operating within the US military, is in charge of the probe.

On Friday, the investigators wrapped up a two-day meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, finalizing preparations for the drive that will soon time through this academic year. AFP

RECOVERED $43-M PAINTING
This picture from the Copenhagen Police Department in Denmark shows a self-portrait by Dutch master Rembrandt van Rijn, valued at about $42 million. It was recovered nearly five years after it was stolen from the National Museum in Stockholm, Dutch police said Sept. 16. AP

Merkel wins back edge ahead of German vote

BERLIN—CONSERVATIVE LEADER Angela Merkel's centre-right alliance has consolidated a slight poll lead over its leftist rivals two days before an election that could decide the fate of Germany's long-ruling chancellor-ruler.

A survey by the Allensbach institute on Friday put support for Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU), their sister Christian Social Union (CSU) and their preferred coalition partners, the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP), at 49.5 percent—enough for a slim majority under Germany's electoral system.

That compared to a combined 46.5 percent for all other major parties, comprising 32.5 percent for Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats (SPD), 7 percent for their Greens partners and 8.5 percent for the left party.

The Allensbach poll, which was likely to be the last survey released before Germans vote on Sunday, echoed the results of another poll from Forsa, which gave a center-right Merkel-led coalition support of between 48 and 52 percent.

The latest surveys are a huge boost for Merkel, whose party held a commanding double-digit lead in opinion polls several weeks ago but has been thrown on the defensive by the dynamic campaigning of Schroeder and former officials by his party. Reuters

MERKEL

WorldBriefs

Clark ties set to win in NZ

WELLINGTON—Counting in New Zealand's general election on Saturday showed that the opposition National Party led by former central bank governor Don Brash was set to topple Prime Minister Helen Clark's Labour-led government after 52 percent of the vote counted, official election figures showed conservative National ahead with 41 percent compared with 39 percent for Labour. These figures would translate into 51 seats for National and 49 for Labour, short of an overall majority but with sufficient center-right minor party partners to form a coalition. Labour was set source for 49 seats). Reuters

China one-child policy

BEIJING—China is in no position to relax its Communist one-child policy as it struggles to keep its population under 1.26 billion by the end of the decade, state media reported Saturday. Government health officials said the policy is needed even though China is now in the "low-birth-rate club with 1.8 children per couple, down from 5.8 three decades ago, the Xinhua news agency said. The two-decade-old policy makes it illegal for urban couples to have more than one child but allows rural couples to have a second child if their first is a daughter. According to data released by the commission, China could have had about 400 million people more than the current 1.3 billion if the one-child population policy had not been imposed approximate ago. AFP

Beirut car bomb blast

BEIRUT—A car bomb exploded in a mainly Christian residential neighborhood of Beirut late on Friday, killing one person and wounding at least 22, Red Cross and security sources said. A series of bombs have exploded, mostly in Christian-dominated commercial areas of Beirut, since the February assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, which many Lebanese blame on Syria. Earthquake bombs any role. Reuters

Asean boycotts EU meeting

SINGAPORE—A move by Southeast Asian nations to boycott a cabinet meeting in the Netherlands with their EU counterparts was made "on a matter of principle" after Burma's minister was denied a visa, Singapore's foreign ministry said. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations ministerial had been scheduled to meet with their European colleagues in Rotterdam on Friday and Saturday as part of the Asia-Europe Meeting dialogue process. AFP

Team CRG bolsters roster for Shell kart superseries

THE CEBU RACING GROUP (CRG) is up to its elbows for four major titles at stake following a successful homecoming campaign in the 2005 Shell Karting Superseries recently at the Mactan circuit in Cebu.

Ranked at the four and ORC skipper Mother Goddess® zoomed a step away from his title contender bid with the big win in the premiere division. A close, swooping yet exciting shootout against Michela Bumgarner for the coveted pilots by the championship round last October.

Despite standing up Lincoln, Goddess® also remains in strong contention for the Rotax Max honors together with teammates from Cauayan who have third place in the overall standings.

Young recruits John Abrahm and John Wayne Acba also posted impressive finishes in the Cadet 60 Clapsit and Cadet 60 Shifter classes, respectively, and are expected to deliver the top plums for Team CRG, supported by Animal ADD, Paramount Insurance, Prestige Cars BMW, Addict Mobile AMR Racers, Pentelo, Prodesign and Oakley.

Because of their tremendous improvement throughout the season, both Abrahm and Acba will be moving up to higher classes next year.

"The team that started in Cebu has grown as the country's top karting team and is now up for major titles at stake," said CRG team director Ludivina Goddess®. "Definitely, Team CRG will be preparing hard for the coming championship round next month."

JOLLY Jan (No. 1) and Benjo Mendoza were in a neck-and-neck battle before both spun out with two laps to go and gave Wesley del Rosario the victory at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently.

Barra hosts Endurocross Sept. 25

ALLOUET has the 4th Endurocross — a cross-trend of raceday racing competition on Sept. 25 (Sunday) at the Luisa's Patio Mix Pavement in Barangay Pinagkawitan, Nasugbu. Four riders are expect challenging obstacles, according to KPG president and organizer Noel Pascuzzo. For details, call 0915-4098631, 0918-5116443, 0905-5208853.

Del Rosario stuns Superbikes stars

NASUGBU, Batangas—The reported showdown between defending champion Joel Jan of Shell Advance and arch rival Benjo Mendoza of Speedrite's cyber stars an unfortunate ending as Wesley del Rosario strolled over the 40th lap of the 2005 Shell Advance Superbikes Series recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

The second was looking forward to another neck-and-neck battle after Mendoza prevailed some over Jan in the finishing race.

The two fought for the lead for the early stages of the final moto until Mendoza finally **secured the pole with two laps to go.**

Mendoza, however, miscalculated his entry at the last pits and got into a spill that **forced him out of the race.**

Jan then dashed into the better, avoiding Del Rosario to pass both of them and win the 36-lap race in 21:48.415 seconds.

Sy eyes 1st AF3 win

Tyson ripe for victory, says Edgen

SPEEDTEK-RIDA biker-artisanal biker By-Lauren's mentioned that his team leader Donnelly is set to register his first win in the 600cc of the Asian Formula Three Series (AF3) this weekend in Sentul, Indonesia.

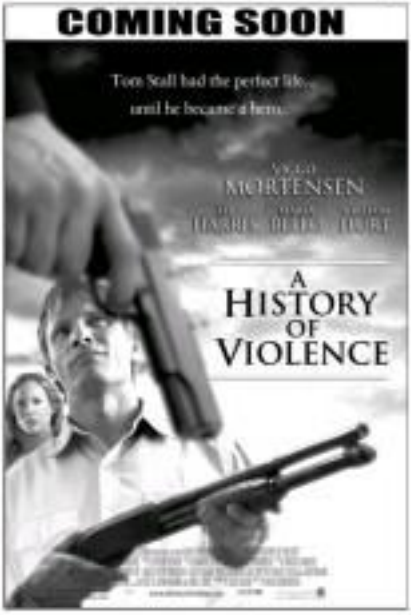
SENTUL, INDONESIA—RIDERS ARE FOLLup at the starting line. Tyson Sy looks to keep his cards at the rearview mirror and take the checkered flag Sentul pole position in Race 9 of the Asian Formula Three Series Sunday at the Sentul International Circuit here.

For the third time, Sy, 17, grabbed the top spot on the starting grid with an awesome performance in the qualifying session Saturday, clocking one minute and 24.384 seconds and beating his bid to score a breakthrough win in the nation-hopping series visiting Indonesia for the second time this year.

"Hopefully I won't make a mistake," said Sy. "I messed up the last time because I was a little bit nervous. This time, I hope to stay in front."

Fellow James Winslow of Shell Helix Sentul is P2 in the second-best qualifying time of 1:24.527 to join Sy on the front. Australian defending champion Christian Jones of Christian Jones Motorsport (1:24.622) and series leader Ananda Mikola of Indonesia (1:24.820), coming for Bantam Racing with Thoroughbred, rank the second row.

Mikola leads the series with 215 points to five wins and a runner-up finish, but has adopted a conservative plan for Round 9 on Sunday morning and Race #1 in the afternoon. A win will give him the title outright.



Soriano notches thrilling victory

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—Wesley Soriano of Rubers Soriano covered a thrilling victory in the Rosa Racing Championships 2005 C at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently, topping Senan Morales in what turned out to be the day's most thrilling race.

Starting tenth and mid-right from the start, Soriano (RSC's second man, Soriano powered on, entered, edged Senan by Morales in the clutch and secured home to victory by a wheel outside the down of the motley Sunday crowd.

Soriano, who is sponsored by Solaire, Racing Tire Marketing, Bridgestone, One Security Plant (Cavendish), Castellan and Mipro, clocked 20:22.153 in Round 1 20:22.213.

Allan Search placed third with a time of 20:37.160, while Jay Carnoso and Jimel Fo ray emerged fourth and fifth with times of 20:55.537 and 20:56.175.

LITTLE OLYMPICS: Youngsters run in the early in the 10th Visayas-Mila Little Olympics held recently at the Cebu City Sports Center.

Fight for Love to help Espinosa

FIGHT FOR LOVE, A BENEFIT CARD aimed at raising funds for former world champion Lumito Espinosa, is set in Manila on Oct. 22 with two Philippine championship fights to come headlined.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has vowed to support the event, hoping that the city will emerge the leading card from tournament fees since ticket proceeds will be given to Espinosa to support him (one battle against a boxing promoter who failed to pay him his purse of $150,000 in a 1997 championship bout in Korea, sold, South Cotabato.

Atienza said the use of the air-conditioned San Andres Gym in Ermita, Manila, will also be for free.

Espinosa, son of former boxer Leo Espinosa, grew up in the squatter area of Tondo before his family moved to the outskirts of the city.

When he was world champion, he took pride in being called as "Tondo Boy."

Top drawing the card are the champion-vs-champion bout between Filipino lightweight champion Armando Montilla of Manila and challenger Jerwin Ordiales of Cebu City and the Philippine junior bantamweight champion Eric Barcelona of Valenzuela, Zamboanga, and No. 1 contender Bernardo Concepcion of Tondo province.

Nearby Cotabato Gov. Manny Pinol, who is spearheading the project, said all talent suitors will go to Lumito Espinosa, who has been in town accompanied by the California Boxing Commission. Senate fighting agency following four straight televised bouts.

Espinosa is waging a battle to collect his purse from a 1997 defense of his world featherweight title against Jaguimoto Cesbo then in Kumamoto announcing to PI million. A suit which he filed against promoter Bud Yamamoto is pending before a Manila court.

Supporting Governor Pinol in the project are Espinosa's former manager Norman Rivera, journalist Ronnie Nimedez and Sangguniang Panlungsod Commissioner El Pernandez.

The Oct. 22 card will be televised live. — Sabrin Laguindoy

RP Golf Show seminars

SEMINARS ON VARIOUS GOLF-related topics to be conducted by the Philippine Tartgeon Association and Sudden classes will be among the highlights of the 11th Philippine International Golf Show on Oct. 7 to 9 at the SM Megamall.

The Golf Show is an annual project of the Golf Shareholders Association of the Philippines headed by Lowell Cuyno.

Exhibit chair Bernard Bagatsal said that the seminars are being made available to interested individuals and companies as a timely way of helping boost the stock of those handling their respective ranks.

Peregrine shuttlecock bets inch closer to finals

THEIRGINE MAGLA BADMINTON Center opened its bid with two victories yesterday to move within a win of qualifying for the grand finals at the close of the Metro Ng cityrun tour of the Batasan Complex.

Peregrine outlined Ayo victories over Manila Badminton Center and Olivares Sports Center without giving up a set to finish the day in the only undefeated team in the tourney to go around Ayo Bilmen Sport Complex.

Finally however, answered from that loss to Peregrine to turn back Ayo and beat Pinkbet 9 Hilings and stay in contention for the second slot being disputed in this two-day qualifier take supported by Citibank, On Line, Endown and Cebu Shelle as the official carrier.

The other supporters are Pressdo Health Point & Detrack Spa, Rum, Viet Mineral Water, Powerade and Hilton as the official drinkwards. Media partners are Solar Sports, Power 89.1 and Zoo 88.3, while Metro Pole Dunes is the official host for the Mindanao leg.

The meaning of Peping's trip

MY PRAYERS ARE FOR PEPING Cojuangco's trip to Geneva, Switzerland, in June 11-16.

He is Geneva where the Fifa Headquarters is located. Peping is there to appeal the Fifa-imposed suspension of the Philippines in all Fifa-sanctioned basketball tournaments anywhere in the world.

One tournament that we already missed is the Fiba-Asia Men's Tournament in Doha, Qatar, winner of the Asian Games next year.

If not for this suspension, we could have really gotten a shot in that tournament. Malaysia, which is our biggest rival in basketball, got one while we were also robbed for the Doha outing during a qualifying tournament held earlier.

I heard that Chot Reyes, coach of the national team that would have really qualified in the Doha event, is now in Qatar for scouting purposes.

That's what you call fighting spirit, if it's true that Chot is over there.

Even in times of uncertainties, Chot Reyes' trip to Doha means he has not lost hope in the sport. He's known to organize an entire statue in the world basketball family.

One tournament that's just around the corner, which Chot Reyes fervently hopes to be in, is the SEA Games in Manila in December.

We will not have a basketball competition in the Asiad and if Filipinos are left like orphans once we do. Or worse, we will host a basketball event but with the Philippines not being able to defend its crown.

If we can see in the SEA Games basketball competition played right in our own backyard, it'll be like watching an "Eastwood" movie in our backyard.

If that should happen, can we ever live that down?

I pray that Patrick Fournier, the Swiss lawyer who set the necessary protocols the court yesterday in Geneva, Switzerland, to hear Fiba.

Patrick Fournier has heard the IOC side before he got so suspended.

Hitch Aquino Cojuangco himself finally pleading the country's case in person, I hope the office will pull a rabbit in the hour of Patrick Fournier.

By Peping's act alone to personally present the Philippine case to Patrick Fournier, I raise a glass to that it's a gesture that leaves Peping Grand. That he is for the country's favorite sardine all the way that he is not just the Olympic president of all sports but, more importantly, of the sport that 90 Filipinos love the most.

God forbid that Patrick Fournier would play deaf to Peping's plea. That'd be inside at the heart of basketball itself.

But if Patrick Fournier should choose to play deaf and reject Peping, he is not he-said/She-Peping did his part, which honestly and without reservation.

Let it be further said that in the event Patrick Fournier should become adamant and refuse to even listen to Cojuangco — like Fiba, the Olympic premiere temporarily said after the SEA Games — his action would be interpreted no more than he didn't actually reject Peping but the entire Filipino basketball team.

In the end, win or lose, it'll be a shining moment for Peping Cojuangco. He can't be more rewarded by any self-respecting sports leader. In conquering himself and doing all the way to Europe in the Filipino basketball's name, Peping has become a winner already. Suddenly, age has stopped to be to give way to the common sense of the people.

I have yet to see Peping do such a thing. The Cojuangcos are never known to own bench life.

Bench for them, Peping did.

If you can't appreciate that, then we're a lost basketball-republic Filipinos.

— — —

MURRAY, first voyage to my buddies Sanchez and Bonnie Serrano, who call fly to Adelaide, Australia, tomorrow in the company of Ka. Jose Lit. Sanchez and Bonnie are now known to me actually as the owners of the organic farming technology in Sorsogon. Kumusta the rooted province of kind-loving shoreline created to restore composting and to implementing waste management programs of the government. They will be at Australia for 11 days to attend an international seminar on organic farming. Good luck!

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Best Buys!

SPORTSWATCH

X-games on ABC Sports

TELEVISION viewers will be the chief beneficiaries of the Thailand X Games Cup 2005 to be aired by ABC Sports beginning on Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. Skateboarders from Australia, Canada, the USA and the Philippines will compete in the event. Skateboarders Mark Hoffman and Duane Robinson, and skateboarders Tom Pigeon and Brandon Dias compete in their respective disciplines in the four-day event. The event features 29 games competed, have developed a platform of their sponsorship for the upcoming ABC-5 broadcasts. ABC-5, in partnership with ESPN, will also broadcast the UFC® Fight Night: Arlovski vs. Meehan live from Las Vegas, Nevada starting on Sunday night at 11.

Naranjo-Delada fight on TV

HEAVYWEIGHT fighters Rolando Naranjo and Alex Delada, The bout was held at the Legaspi Legaspi Sports Center in Cebu. In a fight card recommended by Rex "Wildfire" Salazar. Preliminary matches were held at the

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OPINION

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Untenable

THE CONTRACT NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER Norberto Gonzales Jr. entered into with a leading American law firm, to secure American support for the Charter Change initiative of the President of the Philippines," does not become less objectionable merely because, as Gonzales claims, private money and not public funds will pay for it. On the contrary, it makes the transaction an even bigger outrage.

EDITORIAL Gonzales sought to defend the P56-million contract with Venable LLP by justifying the need for the government to hire its own lobbyists. "We're looking at certain grants, aids, programs between the two countries, and my own observation is that some of these are not forthcoming when they should be coming. [so] already I thought that we should look into the situation there and the normal practice in the US is that you get a lobby group."

Then he traveled his own beat, saying that President Macapagal-Arroyo had given him a specific piece of advice. "The government could have a lobby group but we should not spend money for this," he recalled her saying so.

But those cautionary words do not and cannot excuse the very idea of enlisting a foreign power's assistance in changing our Constitution; in fact, they make the notion even more objectionable.

Getting the private sector to foot the bill for a project of this kind is not a Solomonic decision. It is, instead, Herculean: It involves getting somebody else to do one's dirty work.

Future initiatives become matters of great public concern when they are blithely explained away as being funded by private money. For one thing, the real reasons a government official do not want to account for the expense, not because the national government is cash-strapped. For another, private donations always come with strings attached.

It was for these same reasons that we objected to the expensive, privately funded refurbishing of the presidential yacht during President Joseph Estrada's time. Our own history teaches us that the generosity of cronies comes at a price.

But Gonzales cannot even name who the Venable contract's cronies-to-be are. He said he does not yet know who they are, because his job was merely to "sign the contract and monitor the specifications of the contract."

This is an explanation that not only does not explain; it undermines the credibility of the explainer himself.

As the original report of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism made clear, none of the senior Cabinet officials who ought to have vetted the contract had even heard of it: not Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, not Presidential Legal Adviser Merceditas Gutierrez, not the highest officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs, not the Ambassador to the United States. Not even his deputy at the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency knew about the lobbying contract Gonzales had entered into.

In that case, it must have been an off-the-books affair, like special operations during elections. But if Gonzales himself does not know what the private donors are, then who would? Is he saying it's the President alone who knows who's donating and by how much?

That can only deepen public concern, about the real costs of the Venable contract.

Gonzales sought to dampen the growing public indignation over the arrangement by saying that Venable was committed to render many other services for the government, and that the Charter Change provision was a mere add-on. The contract, he said, specified "mostly ... defense matters."

But a look at the contract itself, easily available on the Internet, shows that lobbying in the United States for constitutional change in the Philippines is an afterthought; in fact, in the list of "specific tasks" which Venable "will undertake and use best efforts to accomplish," it comes first.

"(1) Secure grants or congressional earmarks for support of the Charter Change initiative of the President of the Philippines, which would reshape the form of government in the Philippines from its current structure into a parliamentary federal system."

The "capability enhancement" program for the Armed Forces of the Philippines" only comes in third, by much for defense matters.

Gonzales' latest statements convince us not only that the contract must be scrapped, but also that the circumstances that led to it be thoroughly investigated.

To fight another day

I SALUTE THE 11 PRO-IMPEACHERS WHO were outraged but not defeated. They are like the heroes of Tirad Pass who were overwhelmed by the superior enemy but carried out their mission's reservoirs. Our present-day patriots fell but only for the minute and with their heads intact. They will rise again to fight another day.

They easily could have joined the greater number and received generous rewards for abandoning their principles. They knew they were risking their political future and forfeiting much personal advantage in opposing the office of the majority. Still they valiantly stood their ground and demanded the President's trial and conviction. They cast it in the correction room, but were the moral fights.

The counter-offensive of the administration was a terrible thunderbolt that left the opposition in disarray. It was backed with money unequaled with threats and enticements, and studded with power and perks. It used up all kinds of tricks as cheap as they were expensive. It made the pro-impeachers more vulnerable but also less deserved.

Many in the media, including not a few ardent opposition columnists, were subjected to all manner of persuasion, monetary and other-wise, to campaign for President Macapagal-Arroyo. The opposition was no match for the dirt of the Malacañan propaganda. Full page advertisements appeared in the dailies, many at the expense of manufacturing or farmers exporting to Iran. At least they benefited the publications that printed them without scruple. Announcers like other paid commercials.

GMA's politicians hurled lies at the outside President's meeting with the little people, counting the goodwill of opportunistic religious leaders, and raising results to the camera like an auctioneer before opening the barrels' boxes. On her orders, pictures of her should be and. Big and small projects were in the pipeline as well. The erstwhile dismay of people had suddenly turned indifferent subdivisions.

A friend was overheard telling a cousin, "All right, you may take my picture, but I want it in black and white."

In today's Gospel (Mt. 20, 1–16), we hear of the laborers who grumbled over the equal payments their landowner paid each one of them at the end of the day, regardless of whether they worked for 10 hours or 1 hour only. They demanded that everything be fair and asked why the landowner's point of view, the landowner was unfair. Yet, we both assured us, and we often feel that God is unfair. Why does evil sometimes prosper, and the good seem to suffer? Why do we use mercy and forgiveness when we can be severe? Why is it taking so long for our worthy causes to succeed? These questions and complaints are valid, but we must remember that, with God, we can only plead, not dictate.

I am reminded of the story about a man who, when he saw his friend from afar, called out to him in a loud voice. After someone gave him a act of bitterness, he began critiquing his friend's name. In our marriage and arranged days, perhaps, we can have about God as a God and even cursed Him, but in our mellow years, especially when we are near the end, we can only look at Him, pleading for mercy and asking for forgiveness for the sinner we thought we knew never sinned. We have sinned. So we supervise clash, disappointments, failures and setbacks, may we not forget that God is not plain black and white. He is blue, but He is much more than that. Let us not dictate to God the limits of our eyesight, the area there, much more than meets the human eye.

As far as today's Gospel story is concerned, we do not see a black and white but a multicolored picture: yellow is the color of the idle laborers; blue is the color of those who grumbled at the landowner's manner of compensating them for their labors; red is the color of those who got angry at the landowner; green is the color of the envious ing more adherents to strengthen their campaign for the ejectment of Mr. Arroyo from the Palace of the People. There initial setback was reversed only in a battle, but they got convinced they will ultimately win the war because the President is her own worst enemy. The continued exposé of her abuses will tell the hell for her political comeback and the end of her corrupt administration. Their desperate mission is, they are sure, not an impossible dream.

Let them be warned, though, that after the one-year period from the Estrada impeachment complaint, another one-year "ineffectiveness" will be in effect and the same will not be filed against her and again similarly dismissed. This will make her immune for another year against the filing of other complaints based on more serious grounds, like the case mentioned in the second anti-graft complaint. Without the opposition to alert enough to prevent it, this gamble may be repeated every year until the end of her term.

The quashing of this year's impeachment movement has not proclaimed President Arroyo's absolute innocence. It has only given her a lot of free rein in the future. She has not yet been absolved from her alleged criminality regarding the Garci tapes and the jueteng payola, which are not likely to be swept under the rug by the same forgiving assembly. Today's progress and Satan's anger may yet be found by a wrinkled heavens.

I was much impressed by the young members of the pro-impeachment group for their intelligence and idealism. Among them are Francis Escudero, Edcel Lagman, Joker Arroyo, Antonio Cuenco, Joe Santiago, Rodolfo Biazon Jr., Angelo Reyes, Joe Santiago, Sonny Belmonte, Gilbert Remulla and other legislators who have claimed many statute politicians for harboring their conscience for a term of passage. Even if they are not the leadership-type material, I have no fear for the future of our new statesmanship.

SEPARATE OPINION

Sassoon A. Cruz

It was all show and the people were not impressed. The call for her removal increased not only in "Imperial Manila," as her satraps malign an independent voters. The cost of the country also penetrated angelic. In Cebu, in Iloilo, in Bacolandia, in Cagayan de Oro, and in most of Mindanao, where she talented to vote a million votes less year, the clamor became an indignant demand.

The juggernaut of President Arroyo was increasing enough at conquering enough to drive some of the opposition impugnators to reconsider their courage. Courage proved was contagious than contentious. Two of them withdrew their signatures on the impeachment complaint, some solitary Erap men simply abstained, and Speaker Jose de Venecia (the instead of Pitch," said at least three other turncoats even were abroad to avoid voting against her.

Rep. Pedro Pancho said that he changed his mind because President Arroyo granted some of his province's wishes (Kaya pala!). Rep. Antonio Cuenco, Gov. Richard Gordon charged that Rep. Enrique Magsaysay was invigilat with a fictitious accommodation. In fable Boy, Rep. Irene Marcos, one of the original impeachers, is said to have bargained for the decapitation of the Lilingan ng Mga Bayani with the burial there of her infamous father.

Wait for further announcements of the promises the President has made. Whether they are honored (?) or deliberately forgotten is certain to make headlines, to induce case to resuscitate true character.

Meanwhile, the pro-impeachers are too un-

Black and white

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

Subversive, and, of course, gold is the color of the [illegible] "undermen." What is your color? And what is your true color in the profession that confronts us today?

The possible disorder the nonsinner should attend to is by grateful. That we were hired at all, that the reader is a part of His life. His words and His plans, all these are gratuitous and generous acts of God. The problem comes when we begin to focus on what we deserve, what we have earned and what is ours by right. On the basis of these criteria, God's actions are a mystery, but on the divine level, these questions must be replaced by trust.

Trust is so important, especially in a world that has become so cruel and unjust. As much as possible, without surrender, we must continue to believe that there is a just God who will punish the evildoers and will reward the good, that believing that, we must go one step further by believing that this just God is also a loving and merciful God. What? But, it is not easy to understand the ways of God! No wonder, many refuse to follow this way and His leadings. Again, the key word is trust. If we have not learned to trust God, we have not really learned much in life.

I admire people who are very organized and who get things done by sheer hard work and talent. But I admire more such people who allow room for the divine in their administration and plans. As we work for the good of the earth, the social justice-ensuring peace, and for the spread of the Gospel, let us not forget God the beginning, the sustenance, and the end of all these human endeavors. If we leave out the divine, we may become proud, and if we are proud, we may become discouraged for failures and defeats, of course, we may become angry bitter, even revengeful.

"Ora et labora." Pray and work. This is what the outstanding committee headed by Ella Sanchez followed to make "A Day of Reading with Jesus Through Mary" a success. Ella's last Sept. 11 truly a success. There are no adjectives that best describe the group: courageous and desperate. Shouldn't we all be supporters in the sense that we learn to become more motivated by our head-work and talents, but more desperate that we need to cooperate with each other and continuously storm the heavens with our prayers? Some 8,000 people were home that day, filled with healing and hope, as blessed by the presence of the keynote evangelizer Julio Khai, and super blessed by the presence of Jesus, the greatest healer in the Eucharist.

A word of thanks, too, goes to Fr. Dinky Reparins, SVD, the different organizations and the Gathering Family who made the "Reading Mass" possible at the Sacred Heart Parish, Cubao Cluj last Sept. 11. Yes, we can achieve a lot, and make our Lord Father in heaven smile about it, we learn to cooperate, work corporate, and pray desperate.

Inviting you for the "Walk with God" to Mamayog on Oct. 8, starting at 6 a.m. from Tribunes, Pampanga.

Inviting you to a pilgrimage to Pala, Iloilo Sun. 9 to 19. For particulars, please call PCI-32-86/10-1-24/04/0911286813.

A memorial with the Lord.

Lord, help me to know how to cooperate, how to work corporate, and how to pray desperate. Amen.

The slow death of Philippine basketball

RIVELLE

Raimundo J. Fernández

MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO, SIMON CARE ON Christianity, in his time, the former Senate president called a public school system, introduced us to a presidential form of government, and pounded a great love for the game of basketball.

Today, all these legacies are under attack. The Church is threatened by cheap, born-again groupings which promise not only eternal salvation but even an immediate entry to the billion dollar. The public school system is in dire need of reform, if we are to go by our standing in the different international tests. And the regional competitions. There are moves to amend the basic law of the land, replacing the present political system with a parliamentary form of government patterned after many of our neighbors, which are now quite successful in their endeavor to struggle just to keep our heads above water.

For a large sector of society, it is probably the state of Philippine basketball that says it all. From being the Asian basketball champion in the first Asian Games in New Delhi in 1958—and a strong contender in world competitions, we are now hopeless in the global basketball community and our teams have been relegated to playing only in all-Asian or international contests. Unless something happens in the next few months, our people will be shocked to realize that basketball—the "national sport"—will not be on the agenda of the coming Southeast Asian Games to be hosted by the Philippines this November.

The Federation Internationale de Basketball, or Fiba, the powerful body which dominates the game, has denied the request of the Philippine Olympic Commission (POC) to recognize the newly formed basketball organization known as the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. (PBFI), in place of the basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP).

Without official acknowledging of the problem, let me backtrack a bit.

A few months ago, the POC called for removing of the various basketball organizations in the country with the objective of unifying efforts in carving up a national team for the 15th Games. They appointed to be entrusted with the task, apparently, the BAP had a different reading of the issue and proceeded to form the national basketball team, a role normally given to the National Sports Association (NSA) which, in this case, is the BAP. On the other hand, the Philippine Sports Commission, with possibly a third day on his shoulders, in his place to an effort to change (SEC), in Gen. Eduardo Ailes, who will be retiring on Jun. 30, 2006 less than four months from now.

It is mindboggling to say the least. Figure any rule or will be placed at the head of SportsCom, the MP's rangers and more important unified command. Since of the firm's confirm handlebar operate under this command, along with key elements of the Air Force and marines. It is also responsible for conducting operations against communist insurgents, muslim secessionists, Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) elements in the south. It oversees a commander, and an SOF. As the video indicates, it commands air commands; an OIC is . . . well, merely in charge.

Bishop stands for morality all over

TO "CONFINE OURSELVES TO THE SOCIETY OF OUTSIDE both and engage the world—this is the challenge now which many a priest and bishop must be agonizing. And bishop Oscar Cruz, running mate of Senator Noynoy Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Guingona Jr., Bishop Villegas, Bishop Jaime Kardinal Sin, Bishop Bacolod et al. may be prompted of those who don't wanna provide guru forth.

Archbishop Cruz, making headlines since July, does not encourage the so many time manner. The most visible ones—and, perhaps, all that people are—is his boldness in exposing iniquity in fact, he does not consider himself to politicize religion and counsel about him without merely it considering this obvious to say that the marriages as stained "divorce" him have been surely felt by the bishop. For a while I feared that he might be "abandoned" even by his co-bishops. What a relief that they accepted him here!

The church today must have to do with our strained view of morality and of the role of politics, but lack of which are inseparated. The mindset has been deep in our moral-religious culture for centuries, imbedded like an engraved watch.

Too long have we been brought up or brainwashed to believe that "morality" has to do only with sex, "personal lives," indecent exposures and, lately, with birth and death issues. Because these issues are often settled in the confessional room inside the churches, therefore, the "guides of morality"—meaning, the priests and bishops—should also "stay in church," so to thinking goes.

The truth is, morality involves in every human act, in itself, in its objectives and consequences, in its relationships. All fields are awash with the moral dimensions: government, economics, law, wealth, poverty, business, gambling, prayer, arrest, media, advertising—name it. Politics, for one, is swimming in morality issues too, should we say existing in morality?

So, too young, was priest just it, the Church has been ordained at the beginning and end of life, and has registered everything in between. And "everything in between" is our duty, belongings, scrupulous and unclean. How can one expect the enlightened priest or bishop to stay in the church? Morality is everywhere. Perhaps, the controversy over the matter will keep the safe players in the sanctity, but to be keen of the world.

How has it come to this? This is a form of several related developments (a long story) we have been brought up to: body and soul, Martha and Mary, God and Mammon, Church and State (yes to be fully understood), secular and spiritual. They have done ill to the character of Catholicism. They have split the priest and the parishioner, and we cannot blame the Pharisees to sensuous and compassion, governors and stoners down to the baranggay captains are mostly Catholics, but when a branch of jekyll and hyde's.

Those who would make us more in a sort and almost like our "Bishop Cruz and those before him, with him and after him, display the courage to be reasoning. They are the sons of the priest and the paradigms of morality so we must sing: "Kumbaya my Lord, a dios Catholic friend of the ancient Bishop Cruz, have I been of help?

There is a third and even more silent reason for the courage of Bishop Cruz. Right after the July 8 CBCP Catholic Bishops Conference, the Philippine Daily Inquirer's editors was critical, "Boosting Trust in Politics for Moral Values in Philippine Politics," (www.cbcp.org) that the Bishops, through the Church, had sanctioned and advised the bishops to keep off politics. Commentators even suggested that that action could have changed the tenor of the statements.

The report pointed to one of the many burning questions in Church and politics: the issue of a Catholic Church of Pastor. It documents and deserves. It is "ecclesiastical" which, in fact, deals with the interplay and relationship of authority and autonomy in the relationship between the local Church and and the Vatican. It's a very delicate but urgent matter that must be discussed and studied by bishops of any given Conference, among themselves and with the Vatican.

The mission (not conflict, please) between the two is irreconcilable. On the one hand, the Vatican up till Pope John Paul II (and possibly till Benedict XVI), despite the last 8, seems loathe to loosen its ancient absolutism piqué and Vatican structure. How we looked up to the autocratic Pope Pius XII (1939-1958) for his "Divino Afflante Spiritu" (1943) that Churches have this the need to have space for discretion, decision-making and some devolution. Cardinal Sin was and we have been cautioned to keep off politics, but we all know what he did.

Every very Church structure in the local Churches, parishioning and dioceses are to some extent like the Philippines from that in Africa, Rome or the United States. Work is diversity a unreliable. "Unity, not uniformity" will not confer the Church. "Collegiality and co-responsibility are now the order of the day!

Bishop Cruz's courage in minding right now the pursuing scandal, it is some way, mending the wounds of Catholicism.

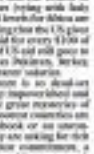
It's great to come into Church in fighting form.

Francisco David Matutina is a retired physician, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to matdal@info.com.ph; fax 8216569

A meeting of hypocrites

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



"MEET THE PRESS" IS THE TITLE OF NEW YORK Times columnist Nicholas Kristof used for his column on the UN Millennium Summit which just ended.

"The biggest gathering of leaders in history unfolds this week at the United Nations, as chief powers and issues about how much they're helping the world's poor. In short, it may be the greatest assembly in history...of hypocrites, Kristof wrote.

"The fact is that with just a few exceptions, the presidents and prime ministers coming to the UN headquarters are doing a disgraceful job in helping the poor."

Kristof's harsh judgment is based on the United Nations Charter on aspects submitted by the governments and by the "hypocrisies" he denounced. Kristof's article, which I read on the Internet, is worth self-imposed guide in being on road to poverty, hunger, misery and ignorance in their countries.

As the 191 Millennium Summit of 2000, the world's leaders, including former President Joseph Estrada, pledged, among others, to cut extreme poverty in half, reduce child mortality by two-thirds, and maternal mortality by three-fourths...by the year 2015. The pledges are called the Target goals are contained in the Millennium Development Goals or MDGs, as right now, distillation of the pledges at the Summit was contained, time-bound targets for halving poverty, for health, education, gender equality and other areas.

Though Ghebi has said that "the poor will always be with us," naming the MDGs is, in most countries, a matter of political will. The UN has only if the world's governments, especially the richest governments, are willing to back rhetoric with money and other forms of aid.

TRADE barriers doesn't seem forthcoming. In an opinion piece for the Financial Times, American professor and economist Jeffrey Sachs laments the lack of focus and will of the rich administrations. "Trade barriers in rich countries still keep poor countries regarding economic development. Workers around the US landscape to pay almost nothing to help the poorest countries," Sachs wrote.

The US official said: "Each dollar in farm payments of GNP an increase from 0.1% percent when Peru

Surviving PAL country

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

OUR COUNTRY IS SO ABSURD! AND ITS NAME is Philippine Airlines. We are its prime passengers. This plane is long delayed for a host of reasons...a tourist visitor from nowhere, a malfunctioning engine that has not been tested then, checking procedures, and worse than in one hundred one more things to explain the situation to the passengers.

I did not realize how extremely close this panel. Infact, we need 1 runs. PR 102 from Davao to Manila was scheduled to leave at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 15. The passengers were mostly conference, private and some who attended a convention in Cebu or in Manila. I flew into Davao the previous day for a lecture at the University of the Philippines in Mindanao. I thought of squeezing in some business big while there, and so I had initially booked for a mid-day flight the following day, Thursday.

Twenty minutes after boarding should have begun, a voice in the 30-square-meter cockpit announced that further aircraft procedures needed to be conducted. The plane was pulled away from the terminal building and parked on the tarmac. Then the engines started up and their noisiness spread out on the concrete floor. From the large glass panes of the waiting lounge of the new airport, we spotted a couple of cliff dogs that were put to work. A number of ramp men were also working on the baggage holds. But this lasted hardly any shorts, only until grumbling over a possibly long delay.

One of the dogs appeared to cause in-cues re-sniffing the cargo hold. Then, after a while, consulting the docket list, the dog suddenly broke loose from its trainer and circled the whole cargo area and also the engine gone mad. We all laughed and took videotapes delight in this amateur dog act of sterility. Later, passengers were shocked to baggage were asked to go down to the tarmac to identify their baggage and to drag it to the cargo bins. Two small tots shouted back and forth as they the passengers. I was pleasantly surprised by the extraordinary serenity with which

terrifying follow passengers coagulated with this task.

Finally, at almost 8 p.m., boarding was announced. Before that, no PR personnel bothered to show up at the waiting lounge; neither was there any explanation offered by anyone for the unprecedented delay. Not a single phone call was made to us. One of the plane's engines failed to start. At around 7:30 p.m., we were asked to return to the airport lounge to wait for further instructions. So each time and in came. Some passengers decided to withdraw from the flight, and asked that their baggage be off-loaded. It was ramp per time. This was a decision to dust for itself.

At 8 p.m., a re-boarding was announced. By church, we all made a rise for the door. Everyone was either sitting or standing in the aisles of the waiting at the Manila terminal. I had run out of battery charge and all could manage was a short message to karina, my wife, telling her that I would miss the birthday dinner for our daughter Sepi. The worst of all, I realized, as passengers converting flight to Cebu-Vancouver to Dubai whose some passengers were headed. She was all ready for my arriving partners and students. At 10 p.m., the announcement came that the same problem with the engine had recurred.

At that point, most people decided to leave the plane. They saw the engine misfunction as a bad omen. Once more, cargo men off-loaded from the plane. Slowly, gradually, passengers trickled in some jobs were distributed. This was our distress. Seeing this meager fare, one passenger opened a large box of pastries and shared the goodies with everyone. Another passenger offered a gallon of cool durian ice cream. It is funny and heart-warming. Abandoned by their leaders, Pinoys take stock of what they have and share it.

At a little before 11 p.m., Captain Rocha announced that the plane was all right and it was safe to fly. Everyone applauded. But I decided against using the flight had to be rationed. This was taking time. We were told that the PAL terminal in Manila would already be closed by the time we landed. There was no choice but to alone the flight. All the baggage in the loaded and collected by the passengers. The same plane would leave at 7:30 the next morning.

This time when I began to love my card. I sought out and confronted the PAL manager in charge. He was very polite, but he could only offer me a meal and a hotel room. I asked him why those who were leaving the flight had to be rationed. This was taking time. He was told that the PAL terminal in Manila would already be closed by the time we landed. There was no choice but to alone the flight. All the baggage in the loaded and collected by the passengers. The same plane would leave at 7:30 the next morning.

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Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

COMMENTARY

Jeanette David Matutina

THEY SAID

Averting disaster

"The president political an issues have not helped at all. The biggest national threat is before us now. We need nothing less than to act as one nation to raise the money of oil and avert an economic crisis come 2006."

—Energy Undersecretary Jose Antonio Salapa on the averting of social unrest and their effects on our economy

Fighting corruption

"So, some people with fighting corruption in the Philippines is like being handed a poisoned chalice, do you? Good. I guess they haven't been to Nigeria then."

—Hong Kong Legislator Regina Ip on the Philippines' ability to handle corruption & if it is an impossible mission

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to [illegible]

Editor Jaime V. Ongpin Jr.

Making ends meet

BECAUSE OF THE SURGING COST OF LIVING AS A RESULT OF RECORD FUEL prices, Filipinos, especially the middle class, are being forced to prioritize their needs over their wants. Instead of eating out on weekends, some families are just staying home. Instead of going on a car or taking a taxi or bus, more and more people are riding the MRT or LRT—the light railway system in Metro Manila.

Instead of liquefied petroleum gas, a growing number of households are using kerosene, charcoal or firewood for cooking. Instead of buying a kilo of pork or chicken, they are settling for half or a fourth of a kilo and are turning to vegetables.

Instead of going to malls to buy brand new jeans, blouses or dresses, people are patronizing ukay-ukay (used clothing) stores. Instead of sending their children to private schools, parents are enrolling them in public schools.

With incomes unable to catch up with inflation, the list of how consumers are making ends meet is a long one and varies from one income class to another. Those without means of livelihood may go hungry more often.

Manufacturers are rising to the challenge of producing affordable goods. They are tightening their products, coming up with 106-gram canned goods, and shampoo, cooking oil, vinegar, soy sauce and tomato sauce in sachets.

People will have to further tighten their belts when the 10 percent expanded value-added tax takes effect.

Small is beautiful: Consumer spending in critical times

By Ester J. Cayanano

FOOD, DIESEL, EDUCATION AND health are all the priority for spending of the Filipino consumer in these difficult times. However, the share of how much to spend on either is changing.

Food, as a percentage of the consumer's budget, is decreasing although out of home consumption of food items is increasing.

Spending on housing and education is going up, while that for medical care, it seems, has remained the same.

What could all these mean? Are people starving less during times of crisis? Is the promise of education finally seeing through in that Filipinos are willing to allocate more of its investments to better lives in the future? Does having a house provide a certain security that whatever happens, the Filipino family has a place to go home to? And is health the only worthwhile area one pounces during times of crises and is therefore most neglected?

Filipino consumers and the value they put on things are interesting.

Of the four, I will delve into why leisure remains, at least in recent years, Pinoys' favorite.

Food in terms of volume may not have actually gone down. Rather, the Filipino has found a way of satisfying hunger without having to eat as much as before. To the 100 population, a total of months, which feeds about 95, would be a meal for a family of four.

Jollypops

Cooking for the whole family has been replaced by mamang and "jollypop" (cup-a-type noodles) and instant cooked food and which are usually stocked in the backs of office buildings) that offer a complete meal in a cup big enough to wear as a headband.

There is an ever-slight serve sardine alone for late night spending for a cup of coffee. We still get to enjoy the meals and the drinks we want, but...

What that is, the source of this for the sustainability is also interesting to look at. Are we still using the same products... traditional trading channels... as many ever-significant new outlets patronized by Filipino consumers. Both channels seem important to the financially chief Sergio Ortiguas.

But are it gone up to why this is so and changes are also would get to the first to [illegible] and [illegible] ability. The PH [illegible] the historical environmental with years of managing increasing sons and right budgets.

There are of course the traditional equivalent of modern mafia's price-and-packet marketing. Hell's expert cook-ing oil, a stick of cigarette...a smaller bar of margarine... almost any item of value is offered by the traditional channels.

Rightsizing gives the Filipino consumer access to a wide range of products even during crisis

Exciting

Long-time in the morning past and I would try to explain why of the four needs mentioned, I chose to discuss food.

To manufacturers, understanding how a consumer deals with the issue/need of his needs is critical. It is the main thing a manufacturer should know. The displayed business should guide manufacturers on how this same consumer would act when introduced to a new re-sponse.

If food is something that has to be had, either to eat or drink, the manufacturer has to be able to provide it. When there is a need for food but buyers can no longer afford to eat, what is the manufacturer to do? Some volume demanded for less cents. This is where it gets exciting.

The results we've seen are the growth of affordable products available in the market. This was done through aggressive up-to-empire, premium-priced to low-priced products, conventional products, and the emergence of traditional (Cutting outlets).

Rightsizing

Downsizing and right-sizing strategies have been taken by makers of practically all fast-moving consumer goods. Weather, as here and 100 years ago, has been a factor in the kind of consumer products bought by consumers.

Rightsizing allows for affordability and gives the Filipino consumer access to a wide range of products even during crisis situations. This is the main aspect of the chief strategy seen in traditional food top channels.

Popular culture may still demand for new alternatives, but in different forms.

Lutong bahay

Convenience products and outlets al-so be help consumers cope during difficult times. Instant noodles, flavorings and out-of-home food consumption have caught up with the Filipino consumer in a big way.

From the traditional flavors of yesteryears (beef, chicken and pork), under the companies have developed flavors ad-apted to Filipino taste—small town tas-tes to those of the larger cities to the tastes of. The latest of which is the much-loved cotaghee variant. Even tuna manufacturers have come up with their line up of sardines, giniling, all-fruit and various variants.

Value meals

Among her husband delivery chains, value meals, executive and student meals are offered. All come with drinks, French fries or salad. Be groups, party packages are also available.

In a family of three or four, in which the husband and wife may be working, ordering food or eating out or having food to go instead of preparing a meal at home may be cheaper. A meal for a family of four would require a complete stock of fresh food, ingredients, an equipped kitchen and culinary savvy—things that have become a luxury only a few can enjoy.

Male housewife

Recent studies show that some house-holds in which the breadwife is a "he," the appeal of the fast-food is more evident in men. Gourmet foods, leading to packs and other processed meat, is the height.

The changing roles in, and size and structure of the family pose the way for the entry of convenience products, ser-vices and service offerings. Again, opportunities abound... and again is not many different forms.

The Philippines, which has 83 million people, is a kind of many opportunities for many business. It offers a large market base for consumers from each industries. It is also a country where companies need to re-evaluate and prioritize needs and wants, and take drastic measures to cope with today's crisis.

Food is a need and opportunities abound in offering an array of this need to-ri or remodeling to affordable, nutritious and filling ones. The Philippine consumer needs are interesting and responding to their distinct needs could be rewarding.

(Cayanano is the managing director of Advertising Philippines, a leader in market research and media relations and analysis.)

From LPG to firewood

YOU KNOW COOKING GAS PRI-ces have started to become less and less affordable when you start people going back to using charcoal and firewood in cooking their meals. And they have.

More and more Filipinos have started to rely low on liquefied petroleum gas, now that prices have spiraled to between P550 and P450.50 per 11 kg cylinder.

Industry data show that LPG sales dropped by almost 10 percent in the first half to 1,721,895 metric tons (MT) from 1,905,354 MT in the same period last year. This is not because people are conserving energy and cooking less.

Industry sources support this observation. Roberto Ongpin, Filipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. general manager for external affairs, says people are just switching to cheaper fuels, namely charcoal, firewood and kerosene instead.

While the observations are not necessarily cheaper, people resort to using these as they can't be bought at amounts that can be consumed in ukay-ukay or, to explain.

The high prices of cooking gas have triggered the Filipino's stop mentality. Instead of buying a full tank of cooking gas, firewood for several days' consumption as opposed to buying an LPG cylinder for about 10 P600 or even more for a few months' worth of consumption.

All these, admits Shell LPG, are now feeling the effect of this scampering of sorts.

Petron Corp.'s LPG sales volume dwindled to around the 1.6 million barrels in the first half from 1.7 million barrels in the same period last year. Although this sales includes sales to industrial customers, Petron Corporation Corp. (The company is not facing much lower than its competitors.

Total Philippines Corp.'s [illegible] have experienced a 14 percent decline in sales in the first half due to the high price of LPG. Total corporate affairs manager Ildefonso Santos says.

The sexy even people, who own small LPG cylinders that double as stoves—the so-called Super Stoves, disposable or refillable—have also seen their spotlight "usually only during the rainy season when there's no firewood."

More people taking MRT and LRT

MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE riding the mass rail transport lines these days, especially after fares in jeepneys and buses were upto date.

RBT's ridership used to average about 400,000 daily. Lately, the figure has shot to about 480,000. Of course, the passage to Cubao weekends and holidays when volume ranges between 280,000 and 300,000.

As 1-day, two weeks ago, set an all-time high of 485,000 passenger volume. I think it was a Wednesday and MRT-3 was still operating in midnight runs.

Ironically, the chairman of MRT-3 and even the LRT was present to encourage the public to take the mass transit because we have an [illegible]. We have not [illegible] our fares since we started operations five years ago whereas jeepney and buses have gone through several increases already.

RBT will charges fares ranging from P15 to P15 for the entire 17 kms stretch of North Edsa to Buendia. Add-on fares of-nearly change P10 for the first five km plus P1.75 for every succeeding kilometer [illegible] of P35 for the same distance.)

(MRT-3 General Manager Roberto Lastimosa)

Revenue in August for the two lines of the Light Rail Transit Authority reached P450 million compared with the monthly average of P380 million during subsidies.

We assisted a spike in ridership starting July. There are days when ridership reached 500,000 whereas we used to average about 250,000 on weekdays.

It helped that we are running more trains, especially on Line 1. We now have 72 trains running, the Mitsubishi-Sumitomo consortium, which is Line 1, after we acquired almost six trains. With more trains, we serve more passengers and the turnaround time is faster.

Right now, the LRT is the cheapest form of transport. We have a fare-fixed fare of P12 and P15 for the entire 14.5-km stretch of Line 1 and the 11.8-km Line 2. Incremental, proposed change P7 for the first four kms, P1.25 for every additional distance [illegible] to P12.75 to P20.825 for the whole stretch of Lines 1 and 2).

With the MRT and LRT, we offer air-conditioned rides and no traffic. The problem is that government is forced to subsidize the operations of the railway because we have not increased our fares. There is a need of rising cost and steadily fares. Fuel, electricity and wages have gone up but we have kept the fares down.

(LRTA Administrator Mel Robles)

Orders for poultry products weaken

DEMAND FOR POULTRY PRODUCTS in the third quarter was quite weak. As a matter of fact, we have had some cancellations or lowering of orders though it's not across-the-board. Demand from institutional and commercial end-users has dropped, that we have not adjusted production. We are just holding inventory inside for the holiday season.

During the past six months, supply overall, affecting farm gate prices. For example, live, agribusiness firms' prices range from P48 to P50 a kilo, but prices of ordinary retailers are between P47 and P48 a kilo. The commercial sector sells at these prices because it sells mostly live birds and there is no [illegible] to be done. Retailers have their arrangements for broiler integrators, who are also engaged in retailing, have also been affected.

Because of ongoing fuel prices, our production cost has increased but our selling prices are determined by supply and demand. The lowest retail price now is P80 a kilo, while the highest is P90 a kilo. We hope the demand during the holidays will improve.

(Rizza Maluza Reinhardt, president, Philippine Association of Broiler Integrators)

Demand from ham makers slips

OUR AVERAGE PRICES FIRST RE-ceived because of less demand in the past, we require orders from manufacturers of hams in time for the holidays (but we are not getting the usual range of orders. People are really holding the purse strings of inflationary pressures and are holding on to whatever cash they have.

We market mainly to retailers as well as corporate buyers. Some removed their usual purchase of pork products from our kitchen half or to even a month of a kilo. Our new market customers also buy three hogs, down from the usual five.

The difficulties have been felt beginning in the second quarter when rising fuel prices pushed up production costs.

In Manila, live weight price on the farm ranges from P60 to P65 a kilo—compared with P68 to P70 a kilo during a good period. In the provinces, the farm gate price is lower at P52 to P54 a kilo, down from P58 to P60 per kilo. Retailers explain that the price at wet markets is still at P145 to P150 and has not declined because they say they need to recover additional costs.

(Albert S.T. Lim Jr., president, National Federation of Hog Farmers Inc.)

Liquor market softening

SAN MIGUEL CORP.'S SUBSIDIARY Ginebra San Miguel Inc., has reported an 11 percent decrease in local sales volume to 19.6 million cases for the first seven months.

We attribute this primarily to the increase in prices of raw materials, which translate to higher prices of our products. On the first half of the year, we observed an increase in the average price of alcohol in volume—we were selling lower products at higher prices.

As for data covering January to July, the decrease in volume was once both for vodka line (7 percent year on year) and our Pure Gulaba Chinese wine, which is popular in the provinces (11 percent).

Only the Gran Matador brandy, a relatively new product, showed strong sales with an increase of 112 percent. But this accounts for a small percentage of gin products, who are affected to a lesser degree of by perceived health benefits. Like wine, brandy is made from grapes and accounts the drinker a target mark of sorts.

Amid the softening liquor market, we are experiencing rising cost pressures on raw materials like molasses, and fuel prices were no products.

(de San Miguel Corp. official, who asked not to be named.)

(Interviews by Abigail L. Ho, Clarissa L. Batino, Christine Guyleon and Ben Domingo.)

INQUIRER Mindanao

A haven for humanity in Butuan City

By Marlo Mupasan
Butuan City

MARTINA AND ANTONIO Ojanda, already in their 60s, have been setting aside at least P50 a day from their sales of kalamay (rice cake) for the past three years to settle their P653.40 monthly Habitat house amortization. They have seven years more to go and they consider it a promise.

Over the past five years, the Butuan Habitat for Humanity Foundation Inc. has built and dedicated 511 houses: 396 in Butuan City (spread in 10 different sites), 41 houses in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur, and 74 houses in Surigao City.

The Butuan City government has provided a considerable part of 96 houses for informal settlers. There is an estimated backlog of 28,000 housing units in Butuan and Habitat International has approved 8 the construction of 400 houses in Barangay Pagatpatan.

The Butuan Habitat is a volunteer-driven, non-profit, ecumenical ministry dedicated to helping eliminate poverty housing. Habitat works with families/partners in need to build decent, affordable and durable homes which are sold to them without profit. The partners/homeowners are provided a revolving "Fund for Humanity" and pledged both to build their homes and to pay for them.

Partnerships have been forged with the city government, schools and churches, youth and student clubs and civic organizations.

House features

A typical Butuan Habitat single detached house, with a 30-sq.m. floor area, costs P75,000, and has to be paid monthly for a period of 15, 20 years or less. A distinct feature is the use of concrete interlocking block (CIB), which is a Habitat technology that has a particular style and mixture of ingredients, oven fired and is said to be more durable.

The active participation in the construction by volunteers and the beneficiary/homeowners themselves in "sweat equity" has helped lower the house's cost.

In Barangay Pagatpatan, Habitat houses have a floor area made of 27 sq. m. with a lot area of 60 sq. m. However is special over 15 years.

In March last year, Millard and Linda Fuller, Habitat for Humanity International founders dedicated two duplex housing units together with Mayor Lourdes Tiersa Wato and Bernardo Ochoa de Ayala.

The couple's interest, Ayala de Ayala, a Habitat national board member, was given a surprise with the birthday greeting from the beneficiaries. In turn, he gifted the community with a donation of P60,000, which is more than the cost of a house unit.

In 2002, a visiting peace convoy and fund-raising activity with the storied Ayta folk band was able to generate an amount for one house.

Repayment scheme

The first and third Saturday of the month are spent for the orientation of prospective homeowner applicants on the ministry's mission/motivation, values, house design/construction, obligations and contracts. The fourth Saturday is set for house dedication and turnovers.

With the active involvement and bonding of the Board with the homeowners, the repayments rates have consistently held at 90 percent.

In the Jan. 29/30th anniversary celebration of the 101 Posts in Barangay Ibo-a, the 15 most outstanding homeowners were awarded for not missing on their monthly amortization payments over the prescribed number of years. There were 15 outstanding homeowners, meaning those who may have had delayed payments, but have never caught up on payment of their dues. Nine homeowners have fully paid for their houses.

The Habitat Development Cooperative has also started the Habit Pure spring mineral water account generating project. The degree to Crystal Pure and bulk build Cluster." The Habit Pure water build is picking up, with the processed spring water from Barangay Ibo-a.

In the coming groups in Barangay Pagatpatan, eight bicycles have been secured on a loan basis to help ease mounting transport costs, and in the future, provide for 15 more.

A new Habitat neighbor said: "Dinapat na nga ako ng lupa sa bahay, tapos pa gasul pahapit na mahalaga. Good for you, you have a double house with a bicycle as add-on!"

International recognition

Unknown to the public, the Butuan Habitat affiliate has been gathering awards, some with a cash prize.

The first major award that bested 91 other country affiliates was an Affiliate in excellence award and honorable mentions for "sound and resource development in its first year of operation in 2000-2001.

In 2003, the International Board of Directors gave it the Asia-Pacific award for excellence in partnership development. Its volunteer program administrator Jocelyn Ibo Figueroa, the Board's previous Habitat/Asia executive director, distinguished volunteer service.

In September 2004, the Butuan-at-Glance got the Habitat International Asia Pacific Leadership Conference award for capacity building and partnership development, at the same time, Butuan Habitat client Samuel Jonathan Figueroa was given the Habitat's award for distinguished volunteer service.

The organization's cash gains have gone to the development of an 8.5-hectare environmental sanitary farm in Barangay Ibo-a called the Habitat for Humanity Haven (H4), helping provide the staff up capital for the Habit Pure spring mineral water business and the development and capacity building of homeowners.

For those who would like to inquire, learn from their poverty-busting allotment experience or participate in whatever positive way, the Butuan Habitat for Humanity Foundation Inc. can be reached at their office on GC Aquino Avenue, Butuan City 8600, and telephone number (085) 342 8993 and e-mail: habi@yahoo.com

VOLUNTEERS from Philhealth's panic mod trainees and lot buyers waiting for the Butuan Habitat for Humanity project.

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[author block illegible]

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Burgonio

[author block illegible]

NFA plans to increase rice prices

SORSOGON CITY—THE NATIONAL FOOD AUthority is planning to increase the price of rice it is selling to the public amid the continuing increase in prices of basic commodities as a result of the increase in oil prices.

This was learned from an unauthorized source inside an Ilocos Undersecretary Emmanuel Sandoval during a meeting with Trade Secretary Peter Favila dated Aug. 30, 2005, which was discussed during the meeting of the provincial Local Government Development Council here.

In his memorandum, Alejaro said the proposal was made by NFA Administrator Gregorio Tan during the meeting of the NFA Council presided over by Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban but was rejected by Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, among others.

Based on the proposal of the NFA administration, regular milled rice, which is currently being sold at P28 per kilo, would reportedly be sold at P43.50 or an increase of 15.6 percent, while well-milled rice will be sold at P 29.50 from its current price of P25 or an increase of 6.3 percent.

The NFA official's argument for proposing the increase was to reduce NFA's trading losses being incurred by the rice-distributing agency.

According to NFA, the break-even cost for local rice is P20.87 per kilo and P 16.02 for imported rice without tariff, and P24.73 with tariff.

The NFA said it would incur this year a trading loss of P900 million to P1.1 billion for local rice and P600 million to P6.07 billion for imported rice.

The agency also expanded on increasing the price of government rice would minimize importation in its trading, likewise downsize.

Some members of the NFA Council, however, argued that raising the prices would cause investors to pull out of unexpended fund.

They also stressed that it would also cause upward inflation as most countries are 24 percent self-sufficient food organizations.

Alejaro recommended to Rep. Imee Marcos the government decides to effect an increase, it should be done during harvest time when prices are usually low and it should be limited to well-milled rice at P20 per kilo.

Meanwhile, NFA also warned that it will cease to sell buying price from farmers to a slightly higher price.

NFA provincial manager Gene Barcelona said NFA will be buying palay at P15 per kilo, plus an additional 1.5 centavos to drying fee. 25 centavos for transportation fee and .05 centavos as cooperative development fee.

Barcelona said they have P1.4 million standby fund and the NFA plans to purchase some 10,000 bags of palay during the coming harvest season. (Rubbico J. Lubag Jr., PDI Inset Photo: Gaston Ziga Jr.)

Bomb planted at PDEA Baguio office defused

BAGUIO CITY—POLICEMEN have defused a pipe bomb found in front of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency office in Barangay Pinsk sa Session Road yesterday.

Senior Supt. Eugenio Merez, city police chief, said the explosive—two chemical cans packed in an eight-inch high PVC (polyvinyl chloride) pipe and tied a timing device and a blasting cap.

The bomb, had it not been defused, would have destroyed half of the Metro Aces Bldg. at the Session Road, Harris said. The PDEA office is located below the engg.

"It was really intended for PDEA personnel and not before it was an organized illegal drug group that set up the device," he said.

He said the bomb was capable of killing or hurting people and destroying property within a range of 15 meters.

The bomb, which was wrapped in a blue shopping bag, was placed in front of the PDEA office door. A PDEA utility man found the bomb at about 8:45 a.m. and reported it to police immediately.

Harris said the bomb, which was set to explode in 7 a.m., was defused at past 4 a.m.

He said the explosion was set at a time when many jogger and walkers from Session Park would be passing near the PDEA office.

He said the bomb, whose blast power was equivalent to 20 hand grenades combined, was "expert-ly done."

Chief Insp. Gil Lolagsin, a PDEA officer, said his agency has initial suspects as to who set up the bomb, stating that the PDEA has been handling major drug-related cases.

"We have no doubt that this is related to those cases PDEA is handling," he said.

He said Senior Insp. Jennifer Ocampo, who had just finished a 45-day training from the antiterrorism summer unit in the Louisiana State Police academy, defused the bomb using tools donated by the United States. Pastor Clemente, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SURSUMAD HEAD

Performers from Bohol in the streets of Davao Sunjan del Mediterraneo days in this parade during Sunjan City's 68th annual Kasadyahan festival during its opening on Sept. 9.

Joey Lozano, PDI man, dies of colon cancer

URBIRAL SANTOS CITY—JOSE Emil Lozano, business correspondent covering indigenous peoples and environment, died of colon cancer on Friday night. He was 61.

His wife, Rosario, told the Inquirer that Joey, as he is fondly called, did not suffer extensive pain unlike most cancer victims.

He was diagnosed with the ailment only this year.

But years ago, Rosario recalled, there were times when her husband complained of stomach ache, and every time she would ask him to consult a doctor, he would just say "Yes, OK."

It was in December last year when Joey's health started to deteriorate. He would often complain he was feeling weak and exhausted. In January, Rosario was able to convince Joey to see a doctor when they found a "polyp-like mass" just above his belly.

He went through a series of medical check-ups. An ultrasound conducted on him showed a thickening outer layer of his intestines, Rosario said.

He flew for work, however, made him skip through medical examinations.

Rosario said Joey entry review and Daily Inquirer, various places like John and Bakit Ano as parent of the writing profession.

In July, colonoscopy conducted on him revealed a stage 3 cancer. He was admitted at the Philippine General Hospital in Manila, placed in Rheumatic South Cotabato, South Cotabato.

He was brought to the intensive care unit of St. Elizabeth Hospital on Aug. 14, but because of his worsening condition, he was transferred to their residence in Banga town, South Cotabato on Aug. 30.

There, Rosario revealed, a nasogastric tube was inserted in his nose, which ran up to his stomach, was put up. His doctor originally stated him there, which a special nurse was hired just to attend to his needs.

Joey joined the Inquirer Mindanao Bureau in the early 1990s.

Prior to that, he was an active BCAO member fostering unity and advocating the cause of the oppressed and underprivileged.

He also wrote for the defunct Manila Mindanao News Service and Chronicle, a business column for the defunct Mindanao Times, a provincial broadsheet, South Cotabato, Sarangani and General Santos City.

He was born on Aug. 30.

Joey is survived by his wife, Rosario, and children Jose Emil Jr., Jonas Jr., Jonathan, Jeremiah and Jeremy.

His remains will be brought to his residence in Banga town, South Cotabato on Aug. 30.

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ROUNDUP

3 killed in Batangas fire

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A fire caught on a gas cylinder killed three in a rural food processing factory in Barangay San Pio Bautista, Bolbok, Batangas City, Friday morning. Batangas police chief Senior Supt. Ernesto Diaz said victims Pastor Tuviano, his wife Florence and son Raymond were sleeping at the same bedroom when the fire broke out around 2:30 a.m. He said the initial investigation of the local fire department revealed that the fire started from one of the two cylinders installed at the garage of the factory. The victims were Ferdinand Tuviano, Virginia Tuviano and Florence Dela Cruz. He said the fire also destroyed spiritual supplies for processing rice cakes and other boxes of the goods. Responding firefighters were able to put out the fire only two hours later. Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3 escapees from Cavite jail hunted

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The Cavite police are hunting down three escapees from the Cavite City police jail along with two others who escaped from the Tanza police detention center. Chief Supt. Jonas Ventura and Larry Mendoza, a robbery suspect both jail, along with Lucy Pendrada and Rose Cardeno, all arrested for illegal possession of firearms. In Cavite police official, who asked not to be identified said initial reports indicated that Mendoza's brother was able to board the compound and gave him the weapon which he used to shoot the suspect a small gun was also smuggled into the jail. The inmates added that three had escaped after the police officers on duty left the jail to help police officers clear the gathered mob place. Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Meeting with New Zealand Army chief

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano shook hands on the northern Mindanao with New Zealand Army Chief Maj. Gen. Jim with Philippine on Thursday. "We are very interested [with] the challenges confronting the AFP in the campaign against terror and insurgency, and how we can collaborate with our friends," Yano said. Yano said New Zealand Army officials and Yano's staff discussed the possibility of conducting joint training exercises between the two countries' armed forces. Yano said the New Zealand Army officials also met Yano and other Philippine counterparts in what they call "confidence building measures." Yano said they were keen to know "how we can improve our relationship with the Philippines." John E. Aljuda, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Hundreds evacuated due to heavy rains

AT LEAST 400 persons from the barangay Tagaytay in Tarlac, Aklan were evacuated after the city fire department's rescue team was deployed to the Office of Civil Defense in Legaspi City. The RCD also said it is expected that Libacon was not passable to all types of vehicles in Polog, as the flood level of its barangay. Arnel Tayag, regional director of the Office of Civil Defense in the South area Gen. Gumabalan, Polangui, Jovellar and Legaspi City. A total of 25 barangays in Albay were flooded in Camalig and Ligao municipalities, and 4,400 families were also evacuated to higher grounds as heavy downpour continued last Sept. 16. barangays in Polog, Aklan Region Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) in Gumabalan. Bernardo Ocampo Gabalacon RDCC chair, said more than 1,000 families were evacuated to evacuation centers in Legaspi and Barangay Banga in Bicolano to Friday morning after water came from Mount Mayon Volcano. Ocampo said thousands of families are also affected in Bato, Ligao, General Tinio and Barangay Orlando. Rubbico Subcharana Jose (with) evacuate residents in Barangay Banga (left).

Jill Aquino C. Amante and Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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See point-and-type for complete details.

Boy with 'hole' in heart needs help, donations

BACOOR, CAVITE—CHRISTIAN AZUELA seems to go to school but his Grade 2 teacher does not want him to.

She does not want to set another pupil die in her class, according to his father Lorenzo.

"She had a reason when a pupil died from heart attack while classes were going on, she said she did not want it to happen again," Lorenzo said.

His heart troubles became all that he could do as treated was to go to school.

The 10-year old scribbler from Feliciano Elementary School in Lower Bacoor said he could not run or play with his friends.

He said his son, who does not like another Manila with its Bonifacio Elementary School in Bacoor, Cavite, said his mother is pleading with him.

He said his son, who does not like another Manila with its Bonifacio Elementary School in Bacoor, Cavite, said his mother is pleading with him.

"When my son is tired from playing or simply from walking, his heart beats four times faster than its average pressure," Jonathan said.

He said since 2004, his son has been complaining of chest pains.

"My son is doing everything to save his life," he said, his appreciation, he said, would cost P82,000.

Santiago B. Almanzor

Those who want to help Christian can contact Azuela at 09181421904.

METRO
Editor Ester G. Dayaqui

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Love for books is also good business

By Maryjoe C. Orbe

IT ALL STARTED WITH A BUSINESS IDEA AND a young man's profound love of books.

For more than five decades now, Popular Bookstore has been the favorite haunt of people from all walks of life: from engineering students looking for reference books to libertik, budding writers, and lovers of the written word in general.

From its unpretentious nook tucked in Escolta's Ana Street in the heart of Manila, where it had established a distinct character for selling rare and precious books to promotions and semi-festivals, the curators steered the bookstore to its new home on Timog Avenue in Quezon City in 2003.

"We had problems with floods and parking in Manila, and we lost a significant number of customers in the Escolta area but because of the proliferation of schools in the metropolis," Geraldine "Dino" Fu, daughter of Popular Bookstore founder Joaquin Fu, said.

But now manager Peyton with his love under tutelage, Jackie F. Co and Katherine F. Palomaya.

"It was in Manila, however, where Popular gained its reputation as a one-of-a-kind bookstore. Many book lovers made great sacrifices taking long trips from different parts of Metro Manila, and the provinces to visit the store," she added.

Dino said her father and his three younger brothers put up Popular Bookstore in 1946, aiming to cater to the needs of newly Manila-based students in technology and University of Manila.

Shortly after World War II, Joaquin's younger brothers—Alfredo, Vicente, and Lucas—began peddling old magazines from the Escolta stores to earn money.

"He got the magazines from ships docked in Manila's ports, put them in a cart, and sold them in his City underneath arms," Dino said, adding that the brothers had no choice but to look for ways to survive after their father left them to go back to China.

Joaquin, who dropped his nursing engineering course in Mapúa to support his family, then worked as a clerk at the Department of Education. The brothers soon put up their own stall in Escolta Street, Binondo, where they sold books and magazines.

"But because books were perishable, they decided to concentrate on magazines," Dino said.

"The life in others opened Popular Bookstore's doors in the late 1940s, with Joaquin as manager.

They started importing paperbooks, then a new phenomenon, and offered them along with engineering books that sold well to students and thinkers.

STILL Popular after almost 59 years, the bookstore that grew out of a man's brother-love now proudly claims its new address on Timog Avenue, Quezon City. INQUIRER

Because the bookstore was then located near the offices of well-known broadsheets like the old Manila Times and the Manila Chronicle, respected journalists and intellectuals also frequented Popular to hang out and borrow through its wide array of titles.

But the association with journalists, progressive thinkers and leftist sometimes got him into trouble, Dino recalled.

"He was arrested and detained in 1951 for being the manager of journalist writer and labor advocate Amado V. Hernandez's favorite bookstore," Dino said, adding that her father was released after the family made several about the incident and pressured the government into setting him free.

When martial law was declared in 1972, Joaquin was incited by the talk-fest to capitalize with the ensuing "communist books."

"It just really their answer that led to the scientific climate," Dino said with a grin. "Dad told them he was selling these books because he was a capitalist and those were the titles that sold well."

Dino said they have maintained their father's shopkeeper's style since after his death in 1998.

"Our father influenced us to do business not for the money but for the love of it," Dino explained.

She added that they wishing to Popular's original unique character was the only way for them to survive with the steady coming of giant bookstore chains and fancy book shops.

"It's good to know that there are still places left where people can go," Dino said, adding their regular clients visit Popular Bookstore for years find.

Dino said that through the years, she and her siblings have seen how the bookstore set trends for readers. From books concentrating on philosophy in the '50s, erotic literature in the '60s, progressive materials in the '70s, occult stuff in the '80s, and science-fiction literature in the '90s.

"We have learned to recognize now that it is important to give readers what they do not ask for," Dino explained, adding that setting trends would expose book enthusiasts to different philosophies and realities.

More than thinking of the profits, they should be sun-wise set the direction for people and provide them with different world views," she emphasized.

LATE father, like daughter: Joaquin (left) and Chino Fu.

Folk get dirty for Manila Bay

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Tina C. Santos

THOUSANDS OF MANILANS and Bulacan-based residents turned out to clean up portions of the Manila Bay coastline on Saturday.

Nothing their hands dirty in celebrating the 20th International Coastal Cleanup (coastal cleaning), at least 11,000 people from the private and public sectors joined the activities of the bay and removed tons of garbage and debris.

In Bacoor, students from St. Paul College and AMA Computer College and members of the Coast Guard swooped to the Fabricante Wharf, in Bacoor, in Barangay La Huerta for the cleanup drive.

The activity was organized by Cavite's Bulad Nhate Basic Environmental Sanitation Office and Barangay La Huerta.

"We are encouraging residents to help the government solve the problem of proper garbage segregation and disposal and maintain cleanliness in the environment," said Mayor Thomas Bautista yesterday.

Bautista also urged fish seller at Bulacan to join the government in keeping the waterbodies.

He reminded them that maintaining cleanliness would help prevent the spread of diseases.

The local government provided dump trucks, cow boats and cleaning materials while the Department of Environment and Natural Resources supplied sacks and disposable gloves that were used in collecting garbage.

Going south along the bay, 11,000 volunteers became involved in activities for a free day in Manila, where they cleaned the stench of beach from the Manila Yacht Club to the United States embassy.

Rafael Rosemoro, chief of the city's Department of Public Safety, said the local government had been regularly cleaning the bay.

"We are the canal lines and it is the residents we encounter here," he said, referring to garbage that flows down through three bridges in Quiapo and waterways.

As basic right garbage to which Manila Mayor Lito Atienza appealed to residents and private and government officials to help maintain a cleaner environment.

"There should be a concerted effort by the LGUs [local government units] to receive the bay," he said.

He noted that interventions of city workers could result to the accumulation of garbage when these throw their refuse in the bay.

MetroBriefs

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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

Old ways still work for Vigan's centuries-old industries

LOOM weavers of abel iloco at Cristo's loom weaving in Camangga, Vigan City, still use the 150-year- old process.

Text and Photos by Leonardo Babiera Jr.
(Of Inquirer Luzon Bureau)

VIGAN CITY—AT THE HEART of Ilocos Sur is Vigan, an old world amid the bustle of commercial activity.

Though considered one of the oldest cities in the country, it was only in 2001 that Vigan was recognized a full-fledged component city of Ilocos Sur.

It was founded as a Spanish colonial settlement until a hub of the Galleon Trade in northern Philippines in 1571. But long before the Spaniards arrived, Vigan was an important trading post frequented by Chinese merchants passing through the south China Sea.

Despite modernity sweeping into their city (as shown by giant fast-food joints sprouting in the town plaza), Ilocanos have stayed close to tradition and nurtured local industries that kept their commercial wheels turning.

In Vigan's centuries-old industries of production of clay tiles and jars, the abel iloco (Ilocano woven cloth), bagyanina (native sausage) and bibingka (native cake), tradition persists.

Mayor Ferdinand Medina says the city government supports these traditional industries to preserve local culture and, at the same time, attract tourists.

"Promoting old practices in traditional industries is part of our efforts to preserve local culture," he says.

Medina adds that the city was promoting Barangays Beddeo and Cheniang as the "Damili (pottery) Village" to help sustain the livelihood of residents there.

These villages are the major sources of clay used in producing Vigan jars and tiles.

Loomweaving

In Barangay Camangaan, Cristo Arbiate, owner of the Cristo's loom weaving, says he employs 22 workers only on their bare hands and their old wooden weaving equipment to produce the finest abel iloco sought by local and international designers.

Arbiate, who inherited the business from his parents, says maintaining the hand woven trademark of their products has attracted tourists and proved good for business.

A meter of abel iloco is sold for P85 to P90, depending on its style and design. He also does and other products fashioned from the cloth: table runners, throw pillow covers, place mats and napkins, shawls) sell briskly from November to May (the peak months for local tourists).

(CONTINUED ON B2)

She creates trinkets from magazine covers, brochures

YEPS
Young Entrepreneurs

SHE COULD HAVE SPENT more time to knit, bottle, or master decoupage like most of her generation usually do.

Instead, this Fine Arts student opted to discover more of her talents by producing experimental fashion and gift accessories making her one of the youngest entrepreneurs to join the ranks of Negosi Cluster-based producers and entrepreneurs.

Jennifer Tanciana, 22, says it started as a hobby two years ago. Her scarf, her unique and ingenious designs and creations of bags with matching bracelets and earrings caught the interest of Negosi producers who persuaded her to make more and bring them to market. Last year, she was invited to become a member of the Association of Negosi Products, which runs the Showroom of Negosi Products in Ortigas Ctr.

NOW is also the organizers of the 26-year-old Negosi Trade Fair that opens Sept. 23 to Oct. 2, 2005 at the "Negosi Bazaar at the Gateway" located in the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City.

This year will be Jennifer's third time to join the trade fair.

Her products include bags, mainly made of fishing bottles, pandan and bamboo, and bracelets and earrings made of rolled tiny papers she took from magazine covers and old used brochures. They are under her label, Reincarnacha.

Jennifer says she only able to discover her gift for creativity at an early age. She has also been creating here in her community as she has encouraged out-of-school youths in her barangay to help her work on her creations so they can have a worthwhile activity that can also give them a source of income.

She says she takes in at least 30 out-of-school youths in her peak production days. Ordinary times, she maintains a workforce of 10 out-of-school youths.

Don't look now but at her age, she is already able to send her products to Europe. She says she had a buyer from Manila who ordered her products to an office. Soon, she received an order and was able to send 16 designs of bags and eight boxes of accessories to Europe.

But Jennifer wants to take it slowly as far as exports are concerned. A popular resort in France would have been her second export client but she did not feel she was ready to meet the demands. "I would rather turn down the order than disappoint the client," she says.

Now on her senior year, Jennifer says she is not yet sure ahead she should pursue for keeps, her passion for designing bags and accessories or her love as an artist.

Whichever path she takes, Jennifer has already made her mark not only in art and design but also in the field of entrepreneurship.

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Old ways still work...

ROOFING materials and tiles are propped at P30 per piece. It is the hottest product among the Vigan tiles in the city today.

Antique sets but smiles at the Vigan Heritage Village in Calle Crisologo could earn at least P300,000 during the Holy Week when tourists swarm the city.

Jars and tiles

The hourly jar-and-tile makers of Vigan have also proven that dirt-dyed their hands could help them earn a living, as their products have become staples of the handicraft industry.

Only three jar makers continue to do business in the city, but production still relies on traditional tools and ingredients used by their forefathers—a stone pedestal wheel, Vigan clay, rainless waters and carabao wood for kneading the clay.

Fidel Go, owner of the Ruby Pottery, says he said his workers rely on nothing else but their hands in shaping and molding the jars, which are sold for P400 to P500 each. Small pieces and disfigured jars go for as low as P50.

Records from the city government showed that 26,000 tourists visited Vigan from January to March this year, with the bulk of visitors coming during the Holy Week.

In an earlier interview, Hermenegildo Ilarza, officer in-charge of the city planning office, said a part of the future development in Vigan involved improving access to other tourist destinations outside the poblacion (town center).

The city government has started dredging the Mindoro River to make it navigable again.

The river, which encircles Vigan, used to be a major waterway from the 16th to 19th century and played an important part in the Galleon Trade.

CRISTY Almeda shows the P50-per-meter shelf-lace to her mom in Vigan City.

AMITA Nuneles of the Vigan Public Market promotes her longganiza priced at P96 per dozen. The biggest is P300 per tie.

THE VIGAN jar being molded is priced at P400 to P500.

THE ARMOUR's umbrella holder sells for P1,600 while the jars behind it are priced at P600 each.

PHILIPS takes the boom box concept down to size to introduce a new concept in portable digital audio—the GoGear SlimStar.

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By Margie Quiñon-Espina

BERLIN—ANALYSTS 100% prophesied the New Millennium will be a century driven by small, or, more agile firms that could easily adapt to changes and market demands.

Traditional brick and mortar firms may have ignored these predictions initially but sleeping patent woke up, too.

Some years ago, 114-year-old Royal Philips Electronics, the Netherlands-based firm that invented the light bulb, ceased to sell from shop and knew it had to change.

Ironically, its foray was on the right track—technology but as Andy Persoon, president and chief executive officer of Philips Consumer Electronics, said, the company realized it had great products and great technology but it was unable to fully impart this to the consumers.

"From a technology-driven company, we want to be marketing-driven. We are bringing marketing to the top of our agenda," stated Combined D.K. Dutton, EVP and member of the board of management of Philips in a meeting with Asian journalists during the Berlin International Funkausstellung (World of Consumer Electronics), the world's leading consumer electronics fair held in the German capital.

Competition played a role in the shift. "If you look at the consumer electronics market 15 years ago, there were only 30 brands. Today, there are over 1,000."

The changes initially announced by Royal Philips president Gerard Kleisterlee two years ago, when he described the rest of the monolithic industrial structure of Philips and of the consumer electronics industry and said firms unwilled to be flexible enough to redefine the borders and rules of consumer electronics.

The overhaul of corporate direction was embodied in the phrase "sense and simplicity." This has become the firm's battle cry propelling them in the current years.

The point of the phrase is to sell consumers Philips products are user-friendly by sophisticated materials are needed and all you need to do is plug and use.

Realizing simplicity today

"The journey of realizing simplicity today really starts with the consumers. All too often we have seen innovation driven by technology for technology's sake ... whereas simplicity should be at the heart of the consumer experience. Our research results and consumer insights suggest the public is, in fact, tired. Tired of not being able to record a program on TV ... tired of spending hours reading an instruction manual ... tired of complexity for its own sake.

"The reality is that our lives are too complex already. We want simplicity in our relationship with technology ... technology that gets the job done rather than drawing attention to itself; technology that gets the job done without us even being aware of it," stated Persoon in his keynote speech at the CES.

The latest Philips products were just on display at IFA where the firm had the biggest exhibit hall.

Philips adopted three fundamental principles for a product, or service, or experience to pass the simplicity litmus test: it should be designed around the user's needs; it must be easy to experience and it must be relevant and innovative.

PHILIPS Consumer Electronics CEO Andy Persoon

Chief marketing officer

A major change Philips adopted in its bid to be more attuned to the consumers was the creation of a chief marketing officer for its consumer electronics division. Of the conglomerate's total annual revenues of about $30 billion, consumer electronics, which includes home entertainment and mobile phones, accounts for one-third or some €10 billion.

Its first CMO is Lucas Graves who said his biggest challenge is to live up to sense and simplicity.

"Our aim is to provide solutions to what the consumers want," he said. "It's not just about technology but what we can bring to you."

Philips has five divisions—consumer electronics, medical systems, lighting, semi-conductor and domestic appliances products. In the Philippines, Philips has a huge semi-conductor plant in Laguna that employs 6,000.

While one-third of Philips' revenues come from consumer electronics, some 8 percent of its sales or some $2.8 billion is invested in research and development.

Rob Harwig, CEO of Philips Research, said there are half of their research work with universities all over the world. It has labs in various continents.

The focus of the research is the medical arena and lifestyle products, Harwig said the research includes putting the new products in actual homes to see how the consumers react to them.

Royal Philips Electronics is one of the world's biggest electronics firms and Europe's largest, with sales of $ 37.66 billion in 2004. With activities in the three interlocking domains of healthcare, lifestyle and technology and 159,700 employees in more than 60 countries, it has market leadership positions in medical diagnostic imaging and patient monitoring, color television sets, electric shavers, lighting and silicon system solutions.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Home

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Canon knows there's still something special about displaying a photo in a frame in your living room

By Bea Fernando
Contributor

THE DIGITAL ERA IS DRIVEN UPON US.

When the digital camera popped up in the market, many doubted its staying power; especially professional photographers who declared their loyalty to film. However, once they could not escape the wonders of technology and soon discovered the benefits of digital photography. Now professionals, meaning or regular people who simply like to take pictures, also caught on the digital craze and now digital cameras seem to effortlessly please and have become staples in everyday life.

The advantages of digital photography are well known—being able to view the photo right away (and delete it right away if it's ugly), change camera settings and modes at the push of a button and create special effects instantly. Perhaps the only downside is that most of the time, the photos remain inside the camera or memory card, or inside the computer or laptop once they've been transferred.

Sure it, sometimes you're just too busy to transfer the pictures to a PC, then burn the photos to a CD, then take them to a developer and wait for them to print. Photos printed at home using a regular printer are never good quality as from our photo lab quality.

Because of this, most people take the easy

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From page 43

way and just e-mail the pictures to friends or create online photo albums. Hence, photos remain in the digital realm and are least likely to be printed and physically see the light of day, much less get into photo albums and frames.

But there's still something special about holding a photograph in your hand or displaying it in a frame in your living room. Touch isn't the most important of the senses for nothing.

This is where the brilliant and creative minds at Canon step in. After all, with the advent of the digital camera boom, it was only a matter of time before printing photos in the comfort of your own home, or in the convenience of your office, became routine.

Already a pioneer in the photo printer industry, Canon has outdone itself yet again with its latest line of Pixel Maximizer or PIXMA series printers that will revolutionise digital photography and change the way you print your photos. Or maybe now you'll finally start printing those photos!

At the recent unveiling in the Canon, Inc. headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, five all-in-One printers, and eight Bubble Jet printers were presented to Asian media. The week-long affair was packed with tours through Canon's offices, showrooms, and history of Tokyo and other region landmarks, as well as parties and carousels done the Japanese way—with good food, costumes, games and, of course, picture taking.

Improved

The new top-of-the-line printer passes Canon's exciting innovation, the Chroma Life100, and improved patented Fine Print Head Technology, plus handy features like camera and memory-card direct printing, new dye-ink system, and LCD screens for viewing the photos without the need of a computer.

Introduced in the market back in 1999, FuII-photolithography Inkjet Nozzle Engineering or Fine Print Head Technology has been improved by increasing the number of nozzles (the holes where the ink ejected from) in the print head, thereby speeding up ink diffusion. Today Canon Pixma printers have the most number of nozzles at 6,144 on a single print head. These nozzles eject a minimum of 2 picoliter (pl) ink droplets for the single function printers and 1 pl for the all-in-one printers (the smallest size ever), in conjunction microscopic bubble-like droplets, hence the name "Bubble-jet printer."

The result is higher printing speed, whereas in the past the unit of measure for printing was referred to pages per minute, or ppm, but with the new Pixma printers, printing time is measured by seconds! Only 36 seconds is all it takes to print a borderless, full-quality photo with the MP600, and up to 11 seconds per photo with the simplest model, the iP1600. However, these are not solely photo printers, even the speed for printing text or word documents has greatly increased.

And without compromising quality, producing photos of outstanding clarity with resolution of 4800 x 1200 dpi (dots per inch) or 9600 x 2400 dpi, or dots per inch. The higher the dots per inch, the better the resolution, the clearer and richer the photo.

But how long will the photos last before they start to fade? Thanks to their new Chroma Life100 system, a combination of ink and media (Photo Paper Pro Photo Paper Plus Glossy) that sets the beauty and permanence of printed images and makes it so they will resist color fading, photos printed using the new Pixma printers can last up to 100 years in perfect condition. Canon conducted extensive tests to perform Chromalife100 based on common tests/displays of photo, such as light banners for when the photo is placed in a photo frame behind glass or plastic, gardenarium when it is out in the open with no covering, and the tests in the same time when inside a photo album facing high temperature, no light, and atmospheric years.

The problem, though, with places with high climates and humidity such as our own country, is ink migration or bleeding. Canon also tested for high temperature and humidity, and the photos retained sharp details without any bleeding or color changes.

Ink uses likewise improved upon with a new high-density dye-base that enhances saturation for sharper images and text.

Smart Led ink tank system also alerts you when the cartridge is running low or empty or was placed in the wrong spot, without you having to turn on the PC. Printing mistakes, ink contamination and empty cartridges are a thing of the past.

MP800, the ultimate PIXMA All-in-One Printer, comes with a 2.5-inch LCD monitor/scanner

User-friendly

The printers come with the Easy Photo Print software program, which boasts of user-friendliness, efficiency and creativity. If there's need to resize or adjust your photos in Adobe anymore, Canon can do it for you automatically. You can add borders, drawings, icons and readily create a photo album or scrapbook since most of the printers come with Two-Way Paper Feeding and have Duplex Printing (prints on both sides of the paper at the same time).

The All-in-One Pixma printers, namely the MP800, MP500, MP450, MP170 and MP150 carry those two features and more: direct printing even from CD, and DVD and wireless medium like cellular phone, and directly print photos from your camera or memory card directly onto a CD or DVD, without a computer.

They also print Photo Index Sheets where you indicate which photos you want printed, the number of copies and the type of layout by just marking the appropriate boxes on the sheet and scan it. Your chosen photos will be printed automatically. There is also a photo/film negative scanner that allows you to make copies instantly.

Not only do they print photos and documents, they also scan and copy color and black-and-white photographs.

The title of ultimate printer goes to the MP800, the professional photo all-in-one printer that has a built-in film scanner and a 2.5-inch color LCD screen.

The Single Function Pixma printers, on the other hand, are models of simplicity yet providing superior printing quality. The iP6600D, iP6220D, iP6210D, iP5200R, iP5200, iP4200, iP3200 and iP1600 come in sleek compact design perfect for home users and students.

The printer best suited for you depends on your lifestyle and how serious you are about photography. From budget printers that offer great functionality to the advanced multipurpose printers, all providing the latest and utmost quality in photo and document printing, there is definitely a Canon Pixma printer that is right for you.

So now, thanks to Canon, photos will no longer take long to print and come out in poor quality. And, now, home-printed photos can last and remain beautiful throughout the years.

CANON'S new Smart LED ink tanks put an end to printing mistakes and ink contaminations.

MP170 (left), a photo and document printer, scanner and copier all-in-one, in silver; and, (further left) existing edge printer iP4400D

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

The rock star of self-help

Text and photos by Pierre Pascual

GREG'S ADVICE TO 'TORPID' PINOY MEN

ASK WOMEN OUT. Stop all. That woman may go for and you may never have that opportunity again. If you play the shy card, women won't come and find you. I remember bumping into the shy guy in high school and you know what, no one asked him out or saved

HE WANTED TO BE A ROCK star. And the truth is, he looks more like a rock star than a best-selling author.

But Greg Behrendt had known his fair share of guitar riffs and tortured vocals. He has been credited for helping countless women from the heartache of dating unhinged clients in the book by wrote with "Sex and the City"'s executive story editor Liz Tuccillo—"He's Just Not That Into You: The No-Excuses Truth to Understanding Guys."

The book is an easy and entertaining read, with lessons from different women and their love-life problems and chapters that begin with the catchphrases, like "He's Not Into That Into You If He's Unapproved City Text" and "He's Just Not That Into You If He Only Wants To See You When He's Drunk."

"This book is not a set of rules," Behrendt said. "It's not a script for you to get a man or how to get a man. This book is a refuge for you to loosen yourself and open yourself up in a way that makes other people want you MORE. The idea is if you reveal yourself well, you'll have a good life and that will ultimately attract somebody good."

Before the book started flying off book-store shelves all over the world, the stand-up comedian already had a good thing going. He received Andrew Dice Clay's stamp for calling "the greatest romance in the world." He had occasional gigs on "The Late Show with David Letterman," "The Tonight Show with

CONTINUED ON A14

Greg Behrendt's six powerful words—'He's Just Not That Into You' —spawned a 'Sex and the City' episode, a book, a live show and, soon, a movie. He has freed women from staring at the wall, waiting for the phone to ring

GREG does his most clear pose.

FIVE KINDS OF HIM WOMEN SHOULD AVOID

- Married men
- Drunkards
- Drunks
- any body who refers to himself as a bad boy
- George Clooney

The rock star of self-help

WHEN TO SEND YOUR MAN PACKING

YOU KNOW: You know, it's time to holding the bomb, you know.

If you're talking to your girlfriends how much about it, you know.

If your friends tell her how you think about it and not to sugarcoat any, you know.

It's only a matter of when you're gonna be honest with yourself and go, 'What am I doing?'

Are Lyne" and "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." He had his own one-hour BBC special titled "Ross Kemp...," a funny look at gender stereotypes, which led to what became a three-year stint as a comedian for the network popular show "Sex and the City." His job in the role: straight man in the stuff was to provide the male perspective when three platonic exes have sex. Yes, that means you can see bits of him in full-frontal Bergen.

Three, six powerful words left his mouth and his life was never the same again.

"It's just not me that can you."

It happened while he was working on "Sex and the City."

"During lunch breaks, the girls would talk about their relationships," Behrendt said. "I would usually stay out of it. It's just been a terrible. One of the girls brought me over the counter-article and said, 'Listen, I have the scenario, can I tell you about it?' She asked me about this guy she had gone on a date with. She had asked him to counter my four her dishes-count up. I said, 'If I was into you, I don't care if I was going on a space shuttle tomorrow. I'm coming up.' Then I asked if he's refreshed the engagement and she said no. So I said, 'He's just not that into you.'

"The girl shrieked and it became this big deal. Everyone started saying maybe he's busy, maybe he's got a lot on his mind and I said some of those things could possibly be true, but in my experience as a guy, if I'm into you I'm coming up. I'm spending time with you. If I'm into you, I'll call you."

Lucky for Behrendt, "He's Just Not That Into You" was a book.

"Maybe a pamphlet," he replied, still shocked.

Greg said, "My wife was instrumental. When I got cast, 'It's a book,' I went home and said, 'What's it to you talking about? I don't get it.' And my wife was like, 'Yes, it's a book.'"

The line found its way into a "Sex and the City" episode and soon, the book was written.

But unlike other authors of self-help books, Greg repeatedly stresses that he's not claiming to be a guru. Even his process of writing was different.

"It was written in a really non-authoritative way in a you're dreaming, it's not your fucking kind of way. I would think of how I'd say it in my notes. I'm not a doctor. I'm not a therapist. I'm certainly not a tutor. I'm not better than anybody else.

When the book was finally released in September of 2004, Greg still had no idea on how big it was going to be. "Even me, I didn't think anything was gonna happen. I went to you, my dream auto, oh I have a book in a bookstore. I'm gonna walk somebody into a bookstore and say, hey I wrote that book."

WIN A SIGNED COPY OF 'HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU!'

WRITE: Did you realise that he was just not that into you and how did it impact end of that relationship?

Send your answers to thegirlsdo@gulfnews.com ps along with your name, age and contact details.

Greg or 'Oprah'

But "Oprah" happened. Greg was asked to guest on the show twice, answering questions from women in the audience.

"It was life-changing," Behrendt said. "Oprah basically endorsed the book and told all the people to get it. That was awesome."

It was the beginning of what became known as the "He's Not Just Into You" revolution. Big sales, made the book No. 1 in bestseller lists around the world — from The New York Times and USA Today to Wall Street Journal and even Amazon.com.

Greg and Liz also did a short tour with a five-version of the book. Today, if you Google, "He's Just Not That Into You," you will get 249,000 hits. Websites to all kinds of languages do this among the best-sellers.

And it seems that a movie is in the works, too. He said that Hilda, one of the lesbian assistants in the book, might be the movie's lead character. "There is a feature film version of 'He's Just Not That Into You' coming out this year [sic]. It's, it's with New Line Cinema. Hopefully it will come out next year. Someone very big is about to be attached to it." (Here's a clue: "D.B.").

Perhaps no one more definitively success is the fact that he knows what he's talking about because he's actually lived it. "I wasn't a great guy but I don't think it made me, it had but I think it made me better. I would be dishonest. I would be and say that we came was really happy, up and I really couldn't get married right now or I have a lot of stuff going on. I'm not better than anybody else but I'm certainly more self-aware now."

And it's that self-awareness that's helped Greg repeatedly overcome his own shortcomings to become a successful author, actor and comedian. Now, he's ready to take on his biggest challenge yet: being a husband and father.

"I'm not into relationships," he explained, still shocked.

Greg said, "My wife was instrumental. When I got cast, 'It's a book,' I went home and said, 'What's it to you talking about? I don't get it.' And my wife was like, 'Yes, it's a book.'"

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SIGNING autographs after the press conference in Dubai.

GREG talks about his book, about "Sex and the City" and about his future.

Exceptions to the rule

Many people want to know...until there exceptions to the rule? Greg's answer is a firm negative. "No. There are always exceptions to

every rule, the problem is if people hang their hopes on being the exception and not really looking at what's happening. That's the problem. My life, for me, I'm always the rule. I'm never the exception. I feel like you have to look at life that way."

Greg knows there are people who challenge his assertions — relationships are supposed to be based about. The great thing about the book is that it started a dialogue. If someone doesn't like the book I say more power to you, write your own book. I don't have a problem with that and agreeing with me because I'm not putting myself out there as a doctor. I'm literally just a dude with an opinion."

Feminists have criticized Greg for advising women against making the first move. "My personal experience was that one woman, object that wanted said be the woman asking me out, didn't you out. What I feel, and this is from living in America, there is so much hooking up that men have gotten so lazy that they don't even ask women out. Women have so many options and they're incredibly as I feel like men in the UK is not the case. I'm not saying women shouldn't ask men out but the idea of the book is you should know you're good enough to be asked out." In other words, "Don't wait for the crumbs."

Greg also says the catchphrase works as reverse, too, that we can tell guys that "She's now you already have your answer. Put the book down, go home and break up with him. And of course the public don't like that's because."

He's still trying to understand why his simple message became such a huge revolution. "I think we tend to complicate situations more so than I'd make sense to us. It's a way of distancing ourselves from the person versus more complicated. But most of those are pretty clear about it, when somebody likes you, they like you. They show up and they like you. If they don't like you, they give you a lot of mixed signals because they don't want to hurt your feelings."

More to come

There's a lot in store for Greg and his fans. He and his wife wrote a book, "It's Called a Breakup Because It's Broken: A Smart Girl's Break-Up Guide," which will come out next this month. "It's about how to get through a more breakup and not just get through it but turn it into the event that makes you the better."

They're also planning to write another one called, "It's Just a Morning Date." There doesn't "Unreal," the DVD-version of his comedy act. Although the TV show hasn't been completely rescheduled yet, there's speculation of a relationship talk show, a reality series or a sitcom. There's also his band, Hush Sound, "We play three-to-four sessions of old, there's songs from Wes Bros Spider" and "Where is Thankful?"

Greg does so many different things, but what is his ultimate passion? "Being useful. Wherever the light is shining, whatever's working."

As the Load list, brought Greg Behrendt to Manila for two days. Last Thursday, he gave people a taste of his comedy with "Unreal," his act that pokes fun at his life as a cocky-turned-unfamous dad who is losing his confidence. Then, last Friday, he held his audience captive, talking about his book and his "Sex and the City" stint. "It's been really crazy. It's a year later and I'm in the Philippines. Unbelievable," Greg said enthusiastically.

And it is fantastic. He can push different messages and people, his work calls for his entourage and many those he's changed their lives.

He might as well have been a rock star.

Email the author at jpascual@gulfnews.com.ph

ON 'JERRY MAGUIRE'

I WAS run out of "Quick and Dumbest." I was done out and of the movie "Jerry Maguire." "If you get this and we say 2010 I'm in Brentwood and I'm a producer."

"Jerry Maguire" is one of the best movies of all time but it's one of the most harmful, too.

The line "You complete me" is horrible — that's not how it works. I need another person to complete me. Bad idea.

And then, "You had me at hello." You didn't even have to say the episode. I was on the floor pretending to be unconscious and I would have been out. I would have said, "You know what, nice speech, get outside and come back tomorrow and I don't want to hear about your big night."

ON JENNIFER ANISTON

I DON'T know all the stars although I did see Jennifer Aniston on my street on the other day.

Greg is also holding up?

Greg: Running. (Big pause now, we sat down and chatted for a little while. I told her) you can do so much better than this! He's only not he's clueless.

Did you also buy a copy of his book?

I gave her a thing, that is what I gave her.

Did you tell her that Brad just wasn't that into her?

I think she knows, she sees the pictures of him with Angelina and the kids and she kinda gets the picture. It was doesn't seem. By now, I feel really bad for her

"DAWWN" (removed) by Bie Magdaleg, Carlo Lee and Ayrees Tee

Interior design aspirants double as Rorschach testers to execute designs that suit your sensibilities

"URBAN Mod" (others) by John Dickson, Jocelyn de la Paz, Timothy Tuason and Gerard la Rosa (above); "La Pura Candela" (parts) by Jean Claire Cuerpo, Bianca Molales and Kristine Escobar (below)

The psychology of design

By Alex T. Vergara

DO YOU GO FOR WALLS WITH SOLID colors or would you rather have your bedroom painted in a rainbow of shades? Are you eyeing up for the couch before sofa or are you willing to settle for the cheaper one of a kind chair that doubles as a sculptural piece? Do you find solace in tartan and stripes or would you rather luxuriate in leather and fur instead?

Your choices will ultimately reveal your "design personality." If you're still in the dark as to what it is, this year's graduating students of the Philippine School of Interior Design can help you find out.

PSID will mark its 10th year with a graduation exhibit dubbed as "PSIDream Destined" at Greenbelt 3 in Makati. The month-long event opens Oct. 1, admission is free.

The school's annual shows have always been much-awaited events for both people within and outside the industry. As Pambid, the school's dean and overall exhibit architect believes that this year's edition (the 16th of its kind since it began in 1979) will no less be ecstatic.

"This year's exhibit will be a month higher than previous exhibits," says Pambid. "Apart from the design presentations, we will offer visitors a psychological perspective."

For one, Pambid promises to come up with an "interactive" show. Each guest will be asked to answer a series of matching-type questions before they make their way to the exhibit area. Apart from answering a few scientific preferences, such questions are designed to reveal glimpses of his or her design personality.

Based on the results of the 10-minute test, Pambid's team of company can more clearly whether the respondent's design sensibilities are pure, laid-back, sensual, bohemian, urban or wild. These traits have also become the inspiration behind the works of this year's batch of graduates.

"Each graduating student also underwent the test," says Pambid. "This doesn't mean, however, that all those grouped under bohemian would work on such a theme."

Part of the school's training is to hone its students to use their individual preferences. It will definitely prove them well in the near future as they deal with all sorts of clients.

Of the 22 booths slotted into six design personality types, four are grouped under pure, three under laid-back, four under sensual, four under bohemian, five under urban and four under wild.

This year's 300-member graduating class are grouped anywhere from three to six persons. In order to give the public variety, students working on a particular category weren't only grouped, but further assigned to do a specific area of the house. In other words, there will be no two bedrooms or living rooms within the same category.

And unlike in the past where students drew inspiration from real and famous people, this year's batch will have to rely mainly on their imagination and from what they've learned in school. The exhibit, which doubles as a thesis, is the last of many requirements students have to handle.

Although the school got prior visa sponsors to provide graduating booths with certain raw materials and furniture pieces, students still had to raise money or solicit from other sponsors to realize their to realize their visions.

Pambid and his colleagues take pride in the fact that PSID has a reputation for producing some of the best interior designers in the country. Through the years, he says, the school has also created the bar so for as exhibits go.

"Students now have no problem here," he adds. "Our students are required to do real and permanent living spaces. I'm sure not a few of them will say once they start dismantling their work. For me it's not the end, but a transition everyone has to go through."

Aside from commending his students for being resourceful, Pambid is also amazed at their rich imagination. It has become an annual practice at PSID to hold a contest among seniors to inspire them to team up with fresh thinkers. This year's winner is Jasmineen Tan.

Pambid, a celebrity stylist before his shift to interior design, welcomed such a theme more so since he took up psychology as a pre-med course. He has noted that colors and formulated the questionnaire, which runs the gamut from relationships, to favorite women's actor, to favorite drink.

So what would you like to know so (and perhaps join with) Piero Austin, Gwen Ibañez, Lito, Mariah Corey, Nicole Jones, or Shalon-na? The country's future interior designers eagerly await your choice.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

"SENSUAL Solace" (removed) by Kristine Vela, Tri Santos, Angelo Victorio, Jing Ubando, Joseph Anorico and Nonie Oyales

"UNION of Pine Isle" (bohemian) by Kei Bautista, Mats Lobregat, Mark Sao and Pam Bondad

"1.61:1(The Divine Proportion)" (wild) by Karen Ang, Claudette Cua, Irene Rivera and Mandy Gonzales

"RUM Shelter" (laid-back) by Ian Sandillan, Cat Carreon and Sara Corneal

Building exhibit and workshops

INDEPENDENT Realty Center and Manufacturers Hardware Center, the largest and fastest-growing network in the hardware and home improvement (HHI) trade, celebrates "Builders Fair" from Sept. 28 Oct. 2, at the Activity Area, Level 1 of Robinsons Place in Pioneer, Mandaluyong.

Exhibits, promo and free workshops, geared toward acknowledging the importance of the "business of building," will be the highlights of the six-day trade event.

To be featured are products in the Automotive, Bathroom, Hardware and Plumbing, Lighting, Paints and Chemical, Power Tools, Water Tanks, Safes, Flooring, Polycarbonate sheets, Roofing and other building brands in the building, construction and maintenance industry.

During the event, a "Partners in Building" PIP card will be issued exclusively for builders, contractors and designers so they can better enjoy the wide range of promotion quality products at RealtyMart.

To avail of the VIP card, present a professional ID card or appointment slip at the Builders Fair. This privilege card, valid for all regular priced items only, will entitle the bearer to a free percent discount at FreshPrince Bo & Groom breakfast in Robinsons Place Pioneer, Robinsons Place Novaliches and Robinsons Homelife Pampanga until December following certain conditions.

Contractors and visitors are also invited to the free workshops, which include Ronchi's "How to make your own ball bearing" (Sept. 27), Hitachi & Dacher's "How to assemble a planer and tool bag" (Sept. 28); Clarion Stereo' "Paint like a Pro and other painting techniques" (Sept. 30); HCG's "Basic water closet troubleshooting" and Mack & Dreher's "How to make a magazine rack" (Oct. 1); and Commander Auto Supply's "Auto maintenance 101" and Ronchi's "How to make your own tire chair" (Oct. 2).

Registration is on a first-come-first served basis. Visit www.realtymart.com.ph.

New transport system needed

SEEING GREEN

Dorti Gotchell Noyola

ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT METRO Manila's inevitable brings to mind the hard headedness of humans who fail to realize that such pollution results from the continued use of fossil fuels (oil and coal) that burn vehicles. And since the sources go into the area of fossil fuels, the issues of global warming and climate change in certain take center stage.

This is because, as we've often been told, vehicle pollution is the second only the Earth's atmosphere is warming up and why as a result, natural disasters are already wreaking havoc on life and property in several areas of the world (examples: from Ondoy, United States).

And yet, it is the economic aspects of rising oil prices that seem to get the most attention, not the risks involved in the continued use of oil.

One Filipino who believes the continued use of oil fossil fuel to contribute to global warming is nutritionist-dietitian Amparo S. Dipon Jr. He recently attended the ceremonial signing of a memorandum of understanding between the designated Head of the Philippines (DOF) and the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to implement the climate-cash provisions of the Clean Air Act. The provisions allows ordinary citizens to sue for violation of the laws.

Dipon says the public has to step in to sue, he says, is that we won't have to import expensive oil, thus boosting the Philippine economy.

There are other obvious reasons why are cited any boosting requirement oil is causes severe damage to the air and to the tender hearts and lungs of Filipino children which should be the first concern of all. Then, there is the "abundant" of PH. Islands using the Americas style of individual mobility considering that Philippine roads are not made or supported to those broad avenues in the US.

Instead of learning oil we use ill, efficient, and passing the roads with concrete. Dipon says the little that sticky land we have could be better used for vegetation and food production. And, together with that, a collective transportation system could be set up, one that would use vehicles that do not only cut into renewable fossil fuels as source of energy.

A deep understanding of the fact will facilitate the development of subsequent steps.

Modified roads

The first steps to take, Dipon says, involves the physical modifications of the road system. This means converting one half of the road must be broken up and turned into a green belt to be known as a "vegetation corridor."

The remaining part of the road will also be broken up into four parts: a wide first lane for pedestrian use; a second lane for bicycles, a third lane for jeepneys, buses and passenger vans (with enough for children to use, a fourth lane must be reserved for emergency vehicles like police cars, ambulances, fire trucks and the like.

Private cars would be allowed to use into the commercial business district (CBD) after a "congestion fee" is paid (say, P5,000 per entry) to help defray road maintenance expenses.

With more space for vegetation and green spots along the roads, there will be cleaner air under the greenbelt area can also be used for food production and employment generation. Unemployed people in certain areas can climb, say organic vegetables to supply the city's needs.

Dipon's suggestions are simple enough and can be easily accomplished if people set their minds to it and government officials lend their support all the way. Filipinos are known to be creative people. Let's prove it once again.

E-mail the author at dortsnoyola@yahoo.com

WELCOMING committee Lyka Gedie and Bebs Lipat

BEHIND the scenes shot in the beach pavilion of Amanpulo

METRO Society family Raul Manzano, Liz Bernardo, chef Craig Otto and Marichelle Ligon

Blissful in Amanpulo

BEACH buffet lunches in front of our suites

TESSA!

Texxo Peneto-Valdez

IF THE GLOOMY SEPTEMBER skies are pouring a plug on your parade, think about escaping our troubled city lives and heading to one of our country's pristine little resorts, even just for a weekend getaway. My husband Dennis and I had the chance to do exactly that last month. A short, one-hour picturesque plane ride brought us straight to Amanpulo, a small, excellent resort on the private island of Pamalican, surrounded by white-sand beaches and turquoise waters.

I almost fainted in horror when they weighed me at the airport and found I was overweight

Amanpulo games stay in spacious suites, complete with a luxurious bath and dressing area. Nestled among tropical foliage, the suites are personal after the lushly Lobo dwelling and were designed by architect Bobby Ilamosa. Each suite maintains a modern flair and is remarkably well-kept. Guests are also given a private buggy to explore the island.

Between Manila's full-blast, swinging social calendar and my full-time, stressful broadcasting schedule, I was in dire need of a weekend "picker upper" trip. So I was accompanied by Kris Emery editor Liz Bernardo asked if hubby and I would do a personal review on Amanpulo for their December issue. Without batting an eyelash and not even checking on Jessie's appointments, I agreed that we'd instant and started planning my review mode.

Thanks to spunky, fun designer Kate Trevelia, I had colorful outfits with matching bags for a whole week! It must have been all mere challenge for Kate to find ways to coordinate the remaining fat deposits all over my body. I almost fainted in horror when they weighed me at the airport lounge before boarding the 19-seat, twin-engine plane.

"Naturally" is the term to assign most to white Raul Manzano says, defined as digitally enhancing a photo to remove blemishes and other "imperfections." It's like running Dr. Mole Belo without the pain, except the results are only for the printed page. Raul promised to liquefy me so that I don't look like a blob for print purposes, who is just about to finish IS. Just because with his instructions, Andrea Mercado and Liezl Arellano-Go.

Pleasant surprises

For the different sports hostess, we proceeded to engage in everything from tennis, biking, scuba diving, snorkeling and kayaking. We also proceeded to do yoga with my traveling, jet set yoga instructor, Bebs Lipat. All that pretending got us tired, so we both had a real massage and real meals that were not pretentious.

That's one of the pleasant surprises at Amanpulo, its not fine cuisine. It's pure spa. I remember that the food was incredibly expensive and tasted horrible. With chefs now available to cook for us, Chef Craig Otto, today the food is great. His version of Thai Curry is delicious. The homegrown salads are spectacular. Ask for the catch of the day that can be swallowed on a beach bonfire.

The only problem in paradise is their pesky sandflies. Outside Suite 13 we grew into a tick tock. I realized too late that the best way to keep them off is coconut oil aside from the Off lotion that the resort provides in the rooms. I will just have to stock up on lavender products since they are hating their biggest ever with Pitchfork on their premises in Boracay.

Now that my soon-to-be-and Tourism Secretary Ace Agulan is a screen-led beach lover, I will suggest that she incorporate with her boss Junior Yap in Amanpulo. The fact is that it is one of the best resorts in the world. While swimming in their pool, Dennis met a lovely guy who said it was the best beautiful pool he had ever been in, but more, "Thinking that the first time here just started in Asia, Dennis asked him how he could make such a hyperbole statement.

Turns out that the first has lived in Japan for over 15 years and visited over half the dream resorts worldwide. Of all the upscale places he had visited, Amanpulo was their family favorite and they were returning here for the umpteenth time. For such a well-traveled foreigner to make that statement about our very own is indeed quite a testament!

The best part of Amanpulo for us local Pinoys is that they have a lot of local members

FOGA pose called stupente-ghupatanasa

SAWER photographer Pat Marcos and Metro Society editor Liz Bernardo

SILE Carmen escort Francis Lim with Dennis Valdez and me

READY to dive Dennis Valdez in beautiful Amanpulo

BOBBY's dear friends Danny Quiot, Fanny Blanco, Sen. Lei Lorenzo, Carrie Bautista, Joris Tarroza and Pa Ng

BIRTHDAY boy Bobby Nowacek, Vivian Velez Gornalvez, Alan Peralta, Irv Corrales and Bob Miller

LUCY Torres and Richard Gomez

PRETTY Julianna Gomez with Ian Barbie Hontiveros

JAMES Yap, Bi's Aquino and Ben Chan

EL Nido Resort-bound, Jon Aliangan with Mici, Alex and Bonnie Sanchez

YOGA expert Bebs Lipat and sister Abali Warren Bowers

SIGNATURE 39-m infinity pool of Amanpulo

Pleasant surprises

For the different sports hostess, we proceeded to engage in everything from tennis, biking, scuba diving, snorkeling and kayaking. We also proceeded to do yoga with my traveling, jet set yoga instructor, Bebs Lipat. All that pretending got us tired, so we both had a real massage and real meals that were not pretentious.

That's one of the pleasant surprises at Amanpulo, its not fine cuisine. It's pure spa. I remember that the food was incredibly expensive and tasted horrible. With chefs now available to cook for us, Chef Craig Otto, today the food is great. His version of Thai Curry is delicious. The homegrown salads are spectacular. Ask for the catch of the day that can be swallowed on a beach bonfire.

The only problem in paradise is their pesky sandflies. Outside Suite 13 we grew into a tick tock. I realized too late that the best way to keep them off is coconut oil aside from the Off lotion that the resort provides in the rooms. I will just have to stock up on lavender products since they are hating their biggest ever with Pitchfork on their premises in Boracay.

Now that my soon-to-be-and Tourism Secretary Ace Agulan is a screen-led beach lover, I will suggest that she incorporate with her boss Junior Yap in Amanpulo. The fact is that it is one of the best resorts in the world. While swimming in their pool, Dennis met a lovely guy who said it was the best beautiful pool he had ever been in, but more, "Thinking that the first time here just started in Asia, Dennis asked him how he could make such a hyperbole statement.

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promotions, most of which are open until June 30. Definitely something to look into if one has a free weekend soon enough!

Birthdays

I met Bob and Carol Jones at the birthday party of Super Bench guru, lovable Bob Chan. His star-studded dinner was complete with all the Bench endorsers and close friends. Bob is just so well loved because in spite of his humongous success and power in the retailing industry, he has remained so humble and generous. At a charity raffle I organized last week, he even gave a grand prize of a dining

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